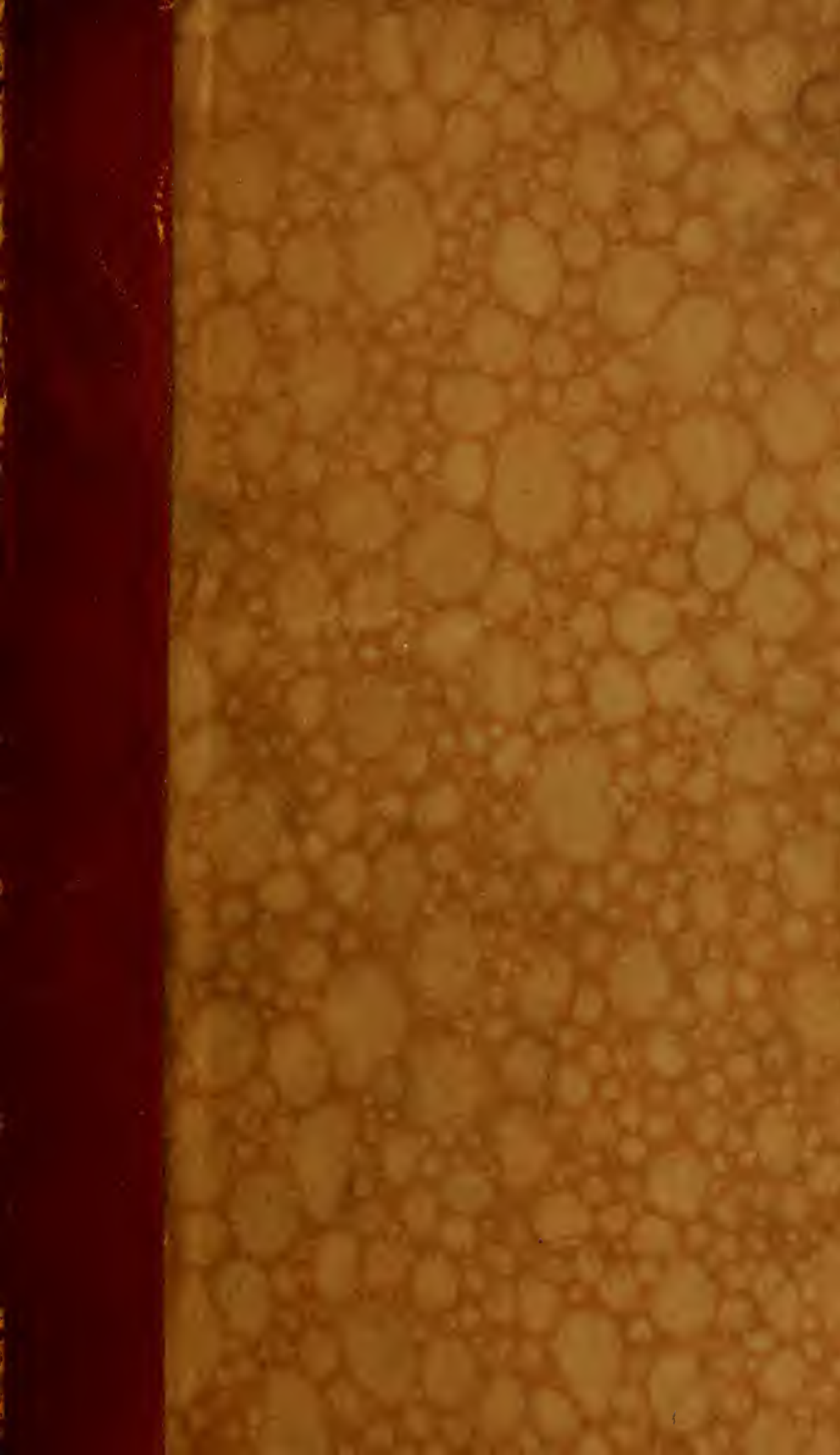




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A COLLECTION
O F
STATE-PAPERS,

Relative to the first Acknowledgment of the Sovereignty of the United States of AMERICA, and the reception of their Minister Plenipotentiary, by their High-Mightinesses the States-General of the United Netherlands.

A T T H E H A G U E,
M D C C L X X I I.

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MEMORIAL

TO THEIR HIGH-MIGHTINESSES, THE STATES-
GENERAL OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF
THE LOW-COUNTRIES.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

The Subscriber has the honour, to propose to your High-Mightinesses, that the United States of America, in Congress assembled, have lately thought fit to send him a Commission (with full Powers and Instructions) to confer with your H. M. concerning a Treaty of Amity and Commerce, an authentic Copy of which he has the honour to annex to this Memorial.

At the times when the Treaties between this Republick and the Crown of Great-Britain were made, the People, who now compose the United States of America, were a Part of the English Nation; as such, Allies of the Republick, and Parties to those Treaties; entitled to all their Benefits, and submitting chearfully to all their Obligations.

It is true, that when the British Administration, renouncing the ancient Character of Englishmen for Generosity, Justice and Humanity, conceived the design of subverting the political Systems of the Colonies; depriving them of the Rights and Liberties of Englishmen, and reducing them to the worst of all Forms of Government, starving the People by blockading the Ports, and cutting off their Fisheries and Commerce; sending Fleets and Armies to destroy every principle and sentiment of Liberty, and to consume their Habitations and their Lives; making Contracts for foreign Troops, and Alliances with savage Nations to assist them in their Enter-
prise,

prise; casting formally, by Act of Parliament, three Millions of People at once out of the protection of the Crown: then, and not till then, did the United States of America, in Congress assembled, pass that memorable Act, by which they assumed an equal Station among the Nations.

This immortal Declaration, of the 4 of July 1776, when America was invaded by an hundred Vessels of War, and, according to Estimates laid before Parliament, by 55,000 of veteran Troops, was not the effect of any sudden Passion, or Enthusiasm; but a measure which had been long in deliberation among the People, maturely discussed in some hundreds of popular Assemblies, and by public Writings in all the States: it was a measure which Congress did not adopt until they had received the positive Instructions of their Constituents in all the States: it was then unanimously adopted by Congress, subscribed by all its Members, transmitted to the Assemblies of the several States, and by them respectively accepted, ratified and recorded among their Archives; so that no Decree, Edict, Statute, Placart or fundamental Law of any Nation was ever made with more Solemnity, or with more Unanimity or Cordiality adopted, as the Act and Consent of the whole People, than this: and it has been held sacred to this day by every State, with such unshaken firmness, that not even the smallest has ever been induced to depart from it: although the English have wasted many Millions, and vast Fleets and Armies, in the vain Attempt to invalidate it. On the contrary, each of the thirteen States has instituted a form of government for itself under the Authority of the People; has erected its Legislature in the several Branches; its Executive Authority with all its Offices; its Judiciary departments and Judges;

ges; its Army, Militia, Revenue, and some of them their Navy: and all those departments of Government have been regularly and constitutionally organized under the associated Superintendency of Congress; now these five years, and have acquired a Consistency, Solidity, and Activity equal to the oldest and most established Governments. It is true, that in some Speeches and Writings of the English it is still contended, that the People of America are still in principle and affection with them: but these assertions are made against such evident Truth and Demonstration, that it is surprising they should find at this day one believer in the World. One may appeal to the Writings and recorded Speeches of the English for the last seventeen years, to shew, that similar misrepresentations have been incessantly repeated through that whole Period, and that the Conclusion of every year has in fact confuted the confident Assertions and Predictions of the beginning of it. The Subscriber begs leave to say from his own Knowledge of the People of America, (and he has a better Right to obtain credit, because he has better opportunities to know, than any Briton whatsoever,) that they are unalterably determined to maintain their Independence. He confesses, that notwithstanding his Confidence through his whole Life in the virtuous Sentiments and Uniformity of Character among his Countrymen, their Unanimity has surprised him: that all the Power, Arts, Intrigues and Bribes, which have been employed in the several States, should have seduced from the Standard of Virtue, so contemptible a few, is more fortunate than could have been expected. This Independence stands upon so broad & firm a bottom of the peoples interests, honour, consciences & affections, that it will not be affected by any Successes the English may obtain

tain either in America, or against the European Powers at War, nor by any Alliances they can possibly form; if indeed in so unjust & desperate a Cause they can obtain any. Nevertheless, altho compelled by Necessity, & warranted by the fundamental Laws of the Colonies, and of the British Constitution, by principles avowed in the English Laws, and confirmed by many Examples in the English History, by principles interwoven into the History and public Right of Europe, in the great Examples of the Helvetic and Belgic Confederacies, and many others; and frequently acknowledged and ratified by the Diplomatic Body, principles founded in eternal Justice, and the Laws of God and Nature, to cut asunder for ever, all the Ties which had connected them with Great Britain: yet the People of America did not consider themselves as separating from their Allies, especially the Republic of the United Provinces, or departing from their connexions with any of the People under their Government; but, on the contrary, they preserved the same Affection, Esteem and Respect for the Dutch Nation, in every part of the World, which they and their Ancestors had ever entertained.

When sound policy dictated to Congress the precaution of sending Persons to negotiate natural Alliances in Europe, it was not from a failure in Respect that they did not send a Minister to your High-Mightinesses, with te first whom they sent abroad: but, instructed in the Nature of the Connections between Great-Britain and the Republic, and in the system of peace and Neutrality, which she had so long pursued, they thought proper to respect both so far, as not to seek to embroil her with her Allies, to excite divisions in the Nation, or lay Embarrassments before it. But. since the British Administration, uniform and persevering in
In-

Injustice, despising their Allies, as much as their Colonists and Fellow-subjects; disregarding the Faith of Treaties, as much as that of Royal Charters; violating the Law of Nations, as they had before done the fundamental Laws of the Colonies and the inherent Rights of British subjects, have arbitrarily set aside all the Treaties between the Crown and the Republic, declared War and commenced Hostilities, the settled Intentions of which they had manifested long before; all those Motives, which before restrained the Congress, cease: and an Opportunity presents of proposing such Connections, as the United States of America have a Right to form, consistent with the Treaties already formed with France & Spain, which they are under every Obligation of Duty, Interest and Inclination to observe sacred and inviolate; and consistent with such other Treaties, as it is their Intention to propose to other Sovereigns.

If there was ever among Nations a natural Alliance, one may be formed between the two Republics. The first planters of the four northern States found in this Country an Asylum from Persecution, and resided here from the Year one thousand six hundred and eight to the Year one thousand six hundred and twenty, twelve Years preceding their Migration. They ever entertained and have transmitted to Posterity, a grateful Remembrance of that Protection and Hospitality, and especially of that religious Liberty they found here, having sought it in vain in England.

The first Inhabitants of two other States, New-York and New-Jersey, were immediate Emigrants from this Nation, and have transmitted their Religion, Language, Customs, Manners and Character: and America in general, until her Connections

with the House of Bourbon, has ever considered this Nation as her first Friend in Europe, whose History, and the great Characters it exhibits, in the various Arts of Peace, as well as Achievements of War by Sea and Land, have been particularly studied, admired and imitated in every State.

A Similitude of Religion, although it is not deemed so essential in this as in former Ages to the Alliance of Nations, is still, as it ever will be thought, a desirable Circumstance. Now it may be said with Truth, that there are no two Nations, whose Worship, Doctrine and Discipline, are more alike than those of the two Republicks. In this particular therefore, as far as it is of weight, an Alliance would be perfectly natural.

A Similarity in the Forms of Government, is usually considered as another Circumstance, which renders Alliances natural: and although the Constitutions of the two Republicks are not perfectly alike, there is yet Analogy enough between them, to make a Connection easy in this respect.

In general Usages, and in the Liberality of Sentiments in those momentous Points, the Freedom of Enquiry, the Right of private Judgment and the Liberty of Conscience, of so much Importance to be supported in the World, and imparted to all Mankind, and which at this Hour are in more danger from Great Britain and that intolerant spirit which is secretly fomenting there, than from any other quarter; the two Nations resemble each other more than any others.

The Originals of the two Republicks are so much alike, that the History of one seems but a Transcript from that of the other: so that every Dutchman instructed in the subject, must pronounce the American Revolution just and necessary, or pass

a Censure upon the greatest Actions of his immortal Ancestors: Actions which have been approved and applauded by Mankind, and justified by the Decision of Heaven.

But the Circumstance, which perhaps in this Age has stronger influence than any other in the formation of Friendships between Nations, is the great and growing Interest of Commerce; of the whole system of which through the Globe, your High-Mightinesses are too perfect Masters, for me to say any thing that is not familiarly known. It may not however be amiss to hint, that the central situation of this Country, her extensive Navigation, her Possessions in the East and West-Indies, the Intelligence of her Merchants, the Number of her Capitalists, and the Riches of her Funds, render a Connection with her very desirable to America: and on the other Hand, the Abundance and Variety of the Productions of America, the Materials of Manufactures, Navigation and Commerce; the vast Demand and Consumption in America of the Manufactures of Europe, of Merchandises from the Baltic, and from the East-Indies, and the situation of the Dutch Possessions in the West-Indies, cannot admit of a doubt, that a Connection with the United States would be useful to this Republic. The English are so sensible of this, that notwithstanding all their Professions of Friendship, they have ever considered this Nation as their Rival in the American Trade; a Sentiment which dictated and maintained their severe Act of Navigation, as injurious to the Commerce and Naval Power of this Country, as it was both to the Trade and the Rights of the Colonists. There is now an Opportunity offered to both, to shake off this snackle for ever. If any Consideration

tion whatever could have induced them to have avoided a War with your High-Mightinesses, it would have been the Apprehension of an Alliance between the two Republicks : and it is easy to foresee, that nothing will contribute more to oblige them to a Peace, than such a Connection once completely formed. It is needless to point out particularly, what Advantages might be derived to the possessions of the Republick in the West Indies from a Trade opened, protected and encouraged between them and the Continent of America; or what Profits might be made by the Dutch East-India Company, by carrying their Effects directly to the American Market; or how much even the Trade of the Baltic might be secured and extended by a free Intercourse with America, which has ever had so large a demand, and will have more for Hemp, Cordage, Sail-Cloth and other Articles of that Commerce: how much the national navigation would be benefited by building & purchasing Ships there: how much the number of seamen might be increased, or how much advantages to both Countries, to have their Ports mutually opened to their men of war & privateers & their Prises.

If therefore an Analogy of Religion, Government, Original, Manners, and the most extensive and lasting commercial Interests, can form a Ground and an Invitation to political Connections, the Subscriber flatters himself, that in all these Particulars the Union is so obviously natural, that there has seldom been a more distinct Designation of Providence to any two distant Nations to unite themselves together.

It is further submitted to the Wisdom and Humanity of your High-Mightinesses, whether it is not visibly for the good of Mankind, that the Powers
of

of Europe, who are convinced of the Justice of the American Cause, (and where is one to be found that is not?) should make haste to acknowledge the Independence of the United States, and form equitable Treaties with them, as the surest means of convincing Great-Britain of the Impracticability of her pursuits? whether the late Marine Treaty concerning the Rights of neutral Vessels, noble and useful as it is, can be established against Great-Britain, who will never adopt it, nor submit to it, but from Necessity, without the Independence of America? whether the Return of America, with her Nurseries of Seamen and Magazines of Materials for Navigation and Commerce, to the Domination and Monopoly of Great-Britain, if that were practicable, would not put the Possessions of other Nations beyond seas wholly in the Power of that enormous Empire, which has been long governed wholly by the feeling of its own Power, at least without a proportional attention to Justice, Humanity, or Decency. When it is obvious and certain, that the Americans are not inclined to submit again to the British Government, on the one hand, and that the Powers of Europe ought not and could not with safety consent to it, if they were, on the other; why should a Source of Contention be left open, for future contingencies to involve the Nations of Europe in still more bloodshed, when, by one decisive step of the Maritime Powers, in making Treaties with a Nation long in Possession of Sovereignty by Right and in Fact, it might be closed?

The Example of your High-Mightinesses would, it is hoped, be followed by all the Maritime Powers, especially those which are Parties to the late Marine Treaty: nor can Apprehension, that the Inde-

dependence of America would be injurious to the Trade of the Baltick, be any Objection. This Jealousy is so groundless, that the reverse would happen. The Freight and Insurance in Voyages across the Atlantic are so high, and the Price of Labour in America so dear, that Tar, Pitch, Turpentine and Ship-Timber never can be transported to Europe at so cheap a Rate, as it has been and will be afforded by Countries round the Baltick. This Commerce was supported by the English before the Revolution with difficulty, and not without large Parliamtary Bounties. Of Hemp, Cordage and Sail-Cloth there will not probably be a Sufficiency raised in America for her own Consumption in many Centuries, for the plainest of all Reasons, because these Articles may be imported from Amsterdam, or even from Petersbourg and Archangel, cheaper than they can be raised at home. America will therefore be for Ages a Market for these Articles of the Baltic Trade.

Nor is there more solidity in another Supposition, propagated by the English to prevent other Nations from pursuing their true Interests, that the Colonies of other Nations will follow the Example of the United States. Those Powers, who have as large Possessions as any beyond seas, have already declared against England, apprehending no such Consequences. Indeed there is no probability of any other Power of Europe following the Example of England, in attempting to change the whole System of the Government of Colonies, and reducing them by Oppression to the Necessity of governing themselves: and without such manifest Injustice and Cruelty on the Part of the Metropolis, there is no danger of Colonies attempting Innovations. Established Governments are founded deep in the
Hearts

Hearts, the Passions, the Imaginations and Understandings of the People; and without some violent Change from without, to alter the Temper and Character of the whole People, it is not in human Nature to exchange Safety for Danger, and certain Happiness for very precarious Benefits.

It is submitted to the Consideration of your High-Mightinesses, whether the System of the United States, which was minutely considered and discussed, and unanimously agreed on in Congress in the Year 1776, in passing the Treaty they proposed to France, to form equitable commercial Treaties with all the Maritime Powers of Europe, without being governed or monopolized by any: a System which was afterwards approved by the King, and made the foundation of the Treaties with his Majesty: a System to which the United States have hitherto constantly adhered, and from which they never will depart, unless compelled by some Powers declaring against them, which is not expected, is not the only means of preventing this growing Country from being an Object of everlasting Jealousies, Rivalties and Wars among the Nations. If this Idea is just, it follows, that it is the Interest of every State in Europe to acknowledge American Independence immediately. If such benevolent Policy should be adopted, the new World will be a proportional Blessing to every Part of the old.

The Subscriber has the further Honour of informing your H. M., that the United States of America, in Congress assembled, impressed with an high Sense of the Wisdom and Magnanimity of your H. M., and of your inviolable Attachment to the Rights and Liberties of Mankind, and being desirous of cultivating the Friendship of a Nation, eminent for its Wisdom, Justice and Moderation,
have

have appointed the Subscriber to be their Minister Plenipotentiary to reside near you, that he may give you more particular assurances of the great Respect they entertain for your H. M., beseeching your H. M. to give entire Credit to every thing, which their said Minister shall deliver on their Part, especially when he shall assure You of the Sincerity of their Friendship and Regard. The original Letter of Credence, under the Seal of Congress, the Subscriber is ready to deliver to your H. M., or to such Persons as you shall direct to receive it. He has also a similar Letter of Credence to his most Serene Highness the Prince Stadtholder.

All which is respectfully submitted to the Consideration of your H. M., together with the Propriety of appointing some Person, or Persons, to treat on the Subject of his Mission, by

LEYDEN
19. April 1781.

J. A D A M S.

G U E L.

GUELDERLAND.

In the Assembly of the States of Guelderland held in October 1781, to consider of the Requisition of the King of France, of a negotiation of five millions of Florins, under te Warranty of the Republick, some were for an Alliance with France. The Baron Nagel, Senechal of Zutphen, avoided putting of the Question, and said among other Things: „ That he had rather acknowledge the Independance of the Americans, than contract an Alliance with France”.

The Baron van der Capellen de Marsch was for an alliance with France and America too. He observed „ That nothing being more natural than to act in Concert with the Ennemies of our Ennemy, it was an object of serious Deliberation, to see, if the Interest of the Republick did not require to accept, without further Tergiversations, the Invitations and Offers of the Americans: that no Condescension for England could hinder Us, at present, from uniting ourselves, against a common Ennemy, wit a Nation so brave, and so virtuous: a Nation, which after our Example, owes its Liberty to its valour, and even at this moment is employed, in defending itself from the Tyranny of the Ennemy of the two Nations: that consequently, nothing could restrain us from acknowledging

ledging the Independence of this new Republick :
 That our conduct differed very much, from that held
 by our Ancestors , who allied themselves with
 the Portugese , as soon , as they shook off the Yoke
 of the Spaniards: That there was no doubt , that
 the said alliances with the Enemies of our Enemy
 would soon restrain his Fury , and operate a gene-
 ral Peace advantageous for us ”.

THE QUARTER

O F

O O S T E R G O.

The Quarter of Oostergo in the Province of Friesland, in December 1781, was the first public Body, which proposed a Connection with the United States of America in these words.

Every impartial Patriot, has a long time perceived, that in the Direction of affairs relative to this war with England, there has been manifested an inconceivable Lukewarmness and Sloth: both they discover themselves still more, at this moment, by the little Inclination which, in general, the Regencies of the Belgick Provinces testify to commence a Treaty of Commerce and Friendship with the new Republick of the thirteen United States of North-America; and to contract Engagements, at least during the Continuance of this common war with the Crowns of France and Spain. Nevertheless, the Necessity of these Measures appears clearly, since, according to our judgments, nothing was more natural, nor more conformable to sound Policy, founded upon the Laws of the Nature the most precise, than that this Republick, immediately after the formal declaration of war, by the English (not being yet able to do any thing by military Exploits, not being in a state of Defence sufficiently respectable, to dare, at Sea, to oppose one fleet or squadron,

to our perfidious Ennemy) ſhould have commenced by acknowledging, by a publick declaration, the Independence of North America. This would have been from that time the greateſt ſtep to the Humiliation of England, and our own Re-eſtabliſhment, and by this meaſure, the Republick would have proved her firm Reſolution to act with vigour. Every one of our Inhabitants, all Europe, who have their eyes fixed upon Us, the whole world expected, with juſt reaſon, this meaſure from the Republick. It is true, that before the formal Declaration of war, by England, one might perhaps have alledged ſome plausible Reaſons, to juſtify, in ſome degree, the Backwardneſs in this great and intereſting affair. But, as at preſent Great Britain is no longer our ſecret, but declared Ennemy, which diſſolves all the Connections between the two Nations; and as it is the duty, not only of all the Regencies, but alſo of all the Citizens of this Republick, to reduce, by all imaginable annoyances, this Ennemy ſo unjuſt to reaſon, and to force him, if poſſible, to conclude an honourable Peace; why ſhould we heſitate any longer, to ſtrike, by this meaſure ſo reaſonable, the moſt ſenſible blow to the common Ennemy? will not this delay occaſion a ſuſpicion, that we prefer the Inter-eſt of our Ennemy to that of our Country? North America, ſo ſenſibly offended by the Refuſal of her Offer; France and Spain, in the miſt of a war ſupported with activity, muſt they not regard Us as the ſecret Friends, and Favourers, of their and our common Ennemy? Have they not Reaſon to conclude from it, that our Inaction ought to be leſs attributed to our weakneſs, than to our affection for England? will not this opinion deſtroy all Confidence in our Nation
here

heretofore so renowned in this respect? and our Allies, at this time natural, must they not imagine, that it is better to have in us declared Enemies than pretended Friends? and shall we not be involved in a ruinous war, which we might have rendered advantageous, if it had been well directed? while on the other hand it is evident, that by a new Connection with the States of North-America, by Engagements at least during this war with France and Spain, we shall obtain, not only the Confidence of these formidable Powers, instead of their distrust, but by this means we shall moreover place our Colonies in Safety, against any Insult; we shall have a well grounded hope, of recovering, with the aid of the allied Powers, our lost Possessions, if the English should make themselves masters of them, and our Commerce at present neglected, and so shamefully pillaged, would reassume a new Vigour; considering that in such case, as it is manifestly proved by solid reasons, this Republick would derive from this Commerce the most signal Advantages. But, since our Interest excites us forcibly, to act in Concert with the Enemies of our Enemy; since the United States of America invite us to it long ago; since France appears inclined to concert her military operations with ours, although this Power has infinitely less Interest to ally itself with us, whose weakness manifest itself in so palpable a manner, than we are to form an Alliance, the most respectable in the Universe: it is indubitably the duty of every Regency, to promote it with all their Forces, and with all the Celerity imaginable. To this end, we have thought it our Duty, to lay it before your noble Mightinesses, in the firme Persuasion, that the Zeal of your noble Mightinesses will be as

earnest as ours, to concur to the Accomplishment of this Point, which is for us of the greatest Importance; that, consequently, your noble Mightinesses will not delay, to cooperate with Us, that, upon this important subject, there may be made to their High-Mightinesses, a Proposition so vigorous, that it may have the desired Success: and that this affair, of an Importance beyond all Expression for our common Country, may be resolved and decided by Unanimous Suffrages and in Preference to every particular Interest.

ULTERIOUR

ULTERIOUR ADDRESS.

ON the 9th January 1782, Mr. ADAMS, waited on the President VAN DEN SANDHEUVEL, and addressed him as follows.

ON the fourth of May, I had the honour of a Conference with the President of their High-Mightinesses, in which I informed him, that I had received from the United States of America a Commission with full Powers and Instructions, to propose and conclude a Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the said United States of America, and the United Provinces of the Netherlands.

At the same Conference, I had the honour to demand an Audience of their High-Mightinesses, in order to present to them my Letters of Credence and full Powers;

The President assured me, that he would make Report of all that I had said to him, to their High-Mightinesses, in order that it might be transmitted to the several Members of the Sovereignty of this Country, for their Deliberations and Decisions. — I have not yet been honoured with an Answer. I now do myself the honour to wait on you, Sir, to demand, as I do, a Categorical Answer, that I may be able to transmit it to my Sovereign. —

GUELDERLAND.

In an Extraordinary Assembly of the County of Zutphen, held at Nimeguen the 23 of February 1782, the following Measures were taken.

After the Report of the Committee of this Province to the Generality, laid this day upon the Table, relative to what passed in the precedent Assembly, and after the Examination of an Extract of the Register of the Resolutions of their High-Mightinesses the States General of the Low Countries of the ninth of last Month, in relation to the alteriour Address of Mr. Adams to the President of their High-Mightinesses, concerning the Presentation of his Letters of Credence to their High-Mightinesses, in behalf of the United States of America, demanding a Categorick Answer, whereof the Lords the Deputies of the respective Provinces have taken Copies; the Baron Robert Jasper van der Capellen de Marsch, first by word of Mouth, and afterwards in writing, proposed, and insisted at the Assembly of this Quarter, that at present, and without delay, we should make a Point of Deliberation, and that we should make upon the Table the necessary overture, conceived more at length, in the Advice of this Nobleman inserted in these terms.

NOBLE AND MIGHTY LORDS!

The subscriber judges, upon good grounds, and without fear of being contradicted, that he is able

able to affirm, that it is more than time that we should give a serious attention to the offer, and the Invitation, in every sense honourable and advantageous for this Republick, of Friendship, and reciprocal Connections with the thirteen American Provinces, now become free at the point of the sword, in such sort, that the Categorical Answer demanded by their Minister Mr. Adams, may become a subject of the deliberations of your Grand-Mightinesses, and that you may decide as soon as possible, concerning their respective Interests. He judges, that he ought not to have any further scruple in this regard; and that the uncertain consequences of the Mediation offered by Russia cannot, when certain Advantages for this Republick are in question, hinder that, out of regard for an Enemy, with whom we (however salutary the views of her Imperial Majesty are represented) cannot make any Peace, at the Expence of a Negligence so irreparable: That a longer delay, to unite ourselves to a Nation already so powerfull, will have for its Consequence, that our Inhabitants will loose the means of extending, in a manner the most advantageous, their Commerce and their Prosperity: That by the vigorous Prohibition to import English Manufactures into America, our Manufactures, by means of Precautions taken in time, will rise out of their state of Languor: And that, by delaying longer, to satisfy the wishes of the Nation, her Leaders will draw upon them the Reproach, of having neglected and rejected the favourable offers of Providence: that on the contrary, by adopting these Measures, the essential Interests of this unfortunate People will be taken to heart.

The subscriber declaring, moreover, that he

will abandon this unpardonable Negligence of an opportunity favourable for the Republick, to the account of those whom it may concern; protesting against all the fatal Consequences, that a longer Refusal of these necessary Measures, will certainly occasion: whereupon he demanded, that for his Discharge, this Note should be inserted in the Registers of the Quarter.

Signed

R. J. VAN DER CAPELLEN.

This advice having been read, Mr. Jacob Adolf de Heekeren d'Enghuysen, Councillor and first Master of Accounts in Guelderland, President at this time of the Assembly of the Quarter, represented to the said Robert Jasper van der Capellen de Marsch, that, Although he must agree to the Justice of all that he had laid down, besides several other reasons equally strong which occurred to his Mind, the Deliberation upon the Point in question appeared to him premature, considering that the Lords the States of Holland and West-Friesland and of Zealand, as the principal Commercial Provinces, who are directly interested, had not nevertheless as yet explained themselves in this regard; consequently that it would not be so convenient for the States of this Dutchy and County, who are not interested in it; but in a consequential and indirect manner, to form the first their Resolutions in this respect: For this Reason he proposed to Consideration, whether it would not be more proper to postpone the deliberations upon this matter, to a future opportunity.

Never

Nevertheless, the beforementioned Robert Jasper van der Capellen de Marsch insisting, that the voices should be collected upon the Proposition and Advice in question, and thereupon having deliberated, their noble Mightinesses have thought fit to resolve, that although the Motives alledged by this Nobleman in his advice, appear to merit a serious Consideration, nevertheless, for the reasons before alledged, they judge, that they ought to suspend the Decision of it, untill the Commercial Provinces have formed their Resolutions concerning it: And that, upon the Requisition of Robert Jasper van der Capellen de Marsch, there be delivered to him an Extract of the present, upon one as well as the other.

Signed

HERM. SCHOMAKER.

PETITION OF LEYDEN.

TO the noble, great, and venerable Lords of the Grand Council of the City of Leyden:

The Undersigned, all Manufacturers, Merchants, and other Traders of this City, most respectfully give to understand, that it is a truth, as melancholly, as it is universally known, that the declension of Manufactures, which all the well-disposed Citizens have remarked with the most lively grief, from the beginning of this Century, has increased more and more for several years; and that this principal Branch of the subsistence of the good Citizens, has fallen into such a state of Languor, that our City, once so flourishing, so populous, so celebrated, on account of its Commerce and of its Trades, appears to be threatned with total Ruin; that the diminution of its Merchants Houses, on one hand, and on the other, the total Loss, or the sensible decrease of several Branches of Commerce, furnish an evident Proof of it; which the Petitioners could demonstrate by several Examples, if there were need of them to convince. Your noble and grand Lordships, to whom the Increase of the Multitude of the Poor, the deplorable situation of several Families, heretofore in easy Circumstances, the depopulation of the City, which one cannot observe without Emotion in the ruins of several streets, once neat and well inhabited, are fully known, will recollect no doubt upon this occasion, with Grief, that this state of Languor must appear so much the more desperate, if your noble and grand Lordships

ships will take into consideration, that in this decay of Trades and Manufactures, we find a new reason of their further fall, considering, that from the time that there is not continual Employment, and an uninterrupted Sale, the Workmen desert in such manner, that when considerable commissions arrive, we cannot find capable hands, and we see ourselves entirely out of a condition to execute these orders.

That the Petitioners, with all the true Friends of their country, extremely affected with this alarming Situation of so rich a Source of the publick Prosperity, have indeed sought the means of a Remedy, in amending some defects, from which it seemed to arise at least in Part; but that the measures taken in this view, as is well known to your noble and grand Lordships, have not had the desired Effect; at least, that they have not produced a Reestablishment so effectual, that we have been able to observe a sensible Influence in the increase of the sales of the manufactures of Leyden, as appears most evidently, by a comparison of the Pieces fabricated here, which have been heretofore carried to the diverse markets of this City, with those which are carried there at this day; a comparison which a true Citizen cannot consider without regret.

That Experience has also taught the Petitioners, that the principal Cause of the decay of the manufactures of Holland, particularly those of Leyden, is not to be found in any internal vice either in the capacity, or the Oeconomy of the Inhabitants, but in circumstances, which have happened abroad, and to which it is, consequently, beyond the Power of the Petitioners, or of any Citizen whatsoever to provide a remedy. That we
might

might cite, for example, the commerce of our manufactures with Dantzick, and, through that commercial City, with all Poland; a commerce, which was carried on with success and advantage heretofore in our city, but is absolutely interrupted at this day, and vanished, by the revolution which has happened in that kingdom, and by the burthenfome duties, to which the navigation of the Vistula has been subjected. But that, without entering into a detail of similar particular shackles, of which we might reckon a great number, the principal Cause of the languishing state of our manufactures consists in the jealous Emulation of the neighbouring Nations, or rather of all the People of Europe, considering, that in this age, the several Princes and Governments, enlightened in the real Sources of the publick Prosperity, and the true Interests of their Subjects, attach themselves with Emulation, to revive in their Kingdoms and States the national Industry, Commerce, and Navigation; to encourage them, and promote them even by exclusive Priviledges, or by heavy Impositions upon foreign Merchandizes; Priviledges and Impositions, which tend equally to the Prejudice of the commerce and the manufactures of our Country, as your noble & grand Lordships will easily recollect the Examples in the Austrian States and elsewhere. That in the midst of these Powers and Nations, emulous or jealous, it is impossible for the citizens of our Republick, however superiour their manufactures may be in quality and fineness, to resist a rivalry so universal, especially considering the dearness of Labour, caused by that of the means of subsistence; which in its turn is a necessary consequence of the Taxes and Imposts, which the Inhabitants

of this State pay in a greater number, and a higher rate, than in any other country, by reason of her natural situation, and of its means to support itself; so that by the continual operation of this principal, but irreparable cause of decline, it is to be feared, that the impoverishment, and the diminution of the good Citizens increasing with the want of Employment, the Dutch Nation, heretofore the Purveyor of all Europe, will be obliged to content itself with the Sale of its own Productions in the interior of the country (and how much does not even this Resource suffer, by the importation of foreign manufactures?) and that Leyden, lately so rich and flourishing, will exhibit desolated quarters in its declining streets, and its multitude, disgraced with want and misery, an affecting Proof of the sudden fall of Countries formerly overflowing with prosperity.

That, if we duely consider these motives, no Citizen whose heart is upright (as the Petitioners assure themselves) much less your noble and grand Lordships; whose good dispositions they acknowledge with Gratitude, will take it amiss, that we have fixed our eyes on the present Conjunction of affairs, to enquire, whether these times might not furnish them some means of reviving the languishing Manufactures of Leyden; and that after a Consideration well matured, they flatter themselves with the hope (a hope which unprejudiced Men will not certainly regard as a vain Chimera) that in fact, by the present Circumstances, there opens in their favour an Issue, for arriving at the Reestablishment desired.

That from the time, when the Rupture between Great-Britain and the Colonies upon the Continent of North-America appeared to be irrepara-

parable, every attentive Spectator of this Event perceived, or at least was convinced, that this Rupture, by which there was born a Republick as powerfull as industrious in the new World, would have the most important Consequences for Commerce and navigation; and that the other commercial Nations of Europe would soon share in a very considerable Commerce; whereof the Kingdom of Great Britain had reserved to itself, untill that time, the exclusive Possession by its Act of Navigation, and by the other Acts of Parliament prescribed to the Colonies; that in the time of it, this Reflection did not escape your Petitioners, and they foresaw, from that time, the advantage which might arise in the sequel, from a Revolution so important for the United Provinces in general, and for their native City in particular. But that they should have been afraid, to have placed this favorable Occasion before the eyes of your noble and grand Lordships, at an Epocha when the relations, which connected our Republick with Great Britain her Neighbour, seemed to forbid all Measures of this nature, or at least ought to make them be considered as out of season.

That, in the mean time, this reason of Silence has entirely ceased by the Hostilities, which the said Kingdom has commenced against our Republick, under Pretences, and in a manner, the Injustice of which has been demonstrated by the supreme Government of the State, with an irrefragable Evidence, in the eyes of impartial Europe; whilst the Petitioners themselves, by the illegal Capture of so large a number of Dutch Ships, and afterwards by the absolute Stagnation of navigation, and of Voyages to foreign Countries, have

have experienced, in the most grievous manner, the consequences of this hostile and unforeseen Attack, and feel them still every day, as is abundantly known to your noble and grand Lordships. That since that Epoque, a still more considerable number of Workmen must have remained without Employment, and several Fathers of Families have quitted the City, abandoning, to the further Expence of the Treasury of the Poor, their Wives and their Children plunged in Misery.

That during this Rupture, which has subsisted now for fifteen months, there has occurred another Circumstance, which has encouraged the Petitioners still more, and which to them appears to be of such a nature, that they would be guilty of an excessive Indifference, and an unpardonable Negligence towards the City, towards the lower Class of Inhabitants, towards their own Families, and towards themselves, if they should delay any longer, to lay open their Interests to your noble and grand Lordships, in a manner the most respectful, but the most energick; to wit, that the United States of America have very rigorously forbid, by a resolution of Congress agreed to in all the thirteen States, the Importation of all English manufactures, and in general, all the merchandizes fabricated in the Dominions which yet remain to Great-Britain. That the Effect of this Prohibition must necessarily be a Spirit of Emulation between all the commercial nations, to take place of the British Merchants and Manufacturers in this important Branch of Exportation, which is entirely cut off from them at this day. That nevertheless, among all the nations there is none, which can entertain a hope, better founded, and more sure, in this respect, than the Citizens of this free
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Republick, whether on account of the Identity of Religion, the fashion of Living, the manners, whether because of the Extent of its commerce, and the convenience of its navigation, but above all, by reason of the Activity and good faith, which still distinguishes (without boasting too much) the Dutch Nation above all other People; qualities in consideration of which, the Citizens of United America are inclined even at present, to prefer, in equal Circumstances, the Citizens of our free States, to every other nation.

That, nevertheless, all Relations and Connections of Commerce between the two Peoples, cannot but be uncertain and fluctuating, as long as their offers and reciprocal Engagements are not fixed and regulated by a Treaty of Commerce. That at this day, if ever, (according to the respectful opinion of the Petitioners) there exists a necessity the most absolute, for the Conclusion of a similar Treaty of Commerce, there, where we may say with Truth, that there arises for the Republick, for our Leyden especially, a moment, which once escaped, perhaps never will return, since the national Assembly of Great Britain, convinced by a terrible and fatal Experience, of the absolute Impossibility of reattaching united America to the British Crown, has laid before the Throne its desire to conclude a necessary Peace with a People, free as this day at the Price of their Blood: So that if this Peace should be once concluded, the Dutch Nation would see itself perhaps excluded from all Advantages of Commerce with this new Republick, or at least would be treated by her with an Indifference, which the small value, which we should have put upon

upon its Friendship in former times, would seem to merit.

That, supposing for a moment, that a Peace, between England and United America, were not so near, as we have reason to presume not without probability; there would be found in that case nations enough, who will be jealous of acquiring, after the example of France, the earliest right to Commerce with a Country, which already peopled by several Millions of Inhabitants, augments every day in Population, in a manner incredible, but, as a new People, unprovided as yet with several necessary Articles, will procure a rich, even an immense Outlet, for the Fabricks and Manufactures of Europe.

That, however manifest the Interest, which the Petitioners and all the Citizens of Leyden would have in the Conclusion of such a Treaty of Commerce, they would however have made a scruple, to lay before the paternal eyes of your noble and grand Lordships, the utility or rather the necessity of such a measure, in respect to them, if they could believe, that their particular Advantage would be; in any wise; contrary to the more universal Interests of all the Republick. But, as far as the Petitioners may judge, as Citizens, of the Situation, and the political Existence of their Country, they are ignorant of any reasons of this kind: but, on the contrary, they dare appeal to the unanimous voice of their fellow - Citizens, well intentioned, in the other Cities and Provinces, even of the Regents the most distinguished; since it is universally known, that the Province of Friesland has already preceeded the other Confederates by a Resolution, for opening negotiations with America; and that in other Provinces,

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which have an Interest less direct in Commerce and Manufactures, celebrated Regents appear to wait merely for the example of the Commercial Provinces, for taking a similar Resolution.

That the Petitioners will not detain the attention of your noble and grand Mightinesses, by a more ample detail of their Reasons and Motifs, since, on one hand, they assure themselves, that these reasons and motifs will not escape the enlightened and attentive Judgment of your grand and noble Lordships, and on the other, they know by experience, that your grand and noble Lordships are disposed, not to suffer any occasion to pass, for promoting the welbeing of their City, for advancing the Prosperity of the Citizens, to render their names dear to their Contemporaries, and make them blissed by Posterity.

In which firm expectation, the Petitioners address themselves to this grand Council with the respectfull but serious Request, that it may please your noble and great Lordships, to direct, by their powerfull Influence, things in such sort, that in the Assembly highly respected of their noble and grand Mightinesses the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland, there be opened deliberations, or, already opened, carried as speedily as possible to an effectual Conclusion, such as they shal find the most proper, for obtaining the lawfull End, and fullfilling the Desires of the Petitioners, or as they shall judge conformable to the general Interest.

So doing &c.

LEYDEN

LEYDEN.

AN ADDRESS of Thanks, with a
further Petition.

To the noble, great, and venerable Lords, the
great Council of the City of Leyden.

The undersigned Manufacturers, Merchants and
other Traders, interested in the Manufactures and
Fabricks of this City, give respectfully to under-
stand.

That a number of the Undersigned, having taken, the 18 of March, the liberty to present, to your noble and great Lordships, a respectfull Request, to obtain the Conclusion of Connections of Commerce with United America, the Petitioners judge that they ought to hold it for a duty, as agreeable as indispensable, to testify their sincere Gratitude; not only for the gracious manner, in which your noble and great Lordships have been pleased to accept that request, but also for the Patriotic Resolution that your noble and great Lordships have taken upon its object; a Resolution, in virtue of which the City of Leyden (as the Petitioners have the best reasons to suppose) hath been one of the first Cities of this Province, from whose Unanimous Cooperation has originated the Resolution of their noble and grand Mightinesses of the date of the 28 of March last "to direct things on the Part of their noble and grand Mightinesses, in the Assembly of the States General, and to make there the strongest Instances, to the end,

that Mr. Adams may be admitted and acknowledged as Minister of the United States of America".

That the Petitioners regard, with all honest-hearted Citizens, the present Epocha, as one of the most glorious in the Annals of our dear Country, seeing that there has been manifested, in a most signal manner, on one hand, a Confidence the most cordial of the good Citizens towards their Regents, on the other a paternal Attention and Deference of the Regents to the respectfull but well founded Prayers of their faithfull Citizens, and, in general, the most exemplary Unanimity, throughout the whole Nation, to the Confusion of those, who, having endeavoured to sow the seeds of Discord, would have rejoiced if they could say with truth, that a Dissention so fatal had rooted itself, to the Ruin of the Country and of the People.

That the Petitioners, feeling themselves penetrated, with the most pleasing Emotions, by an Harmony so Universal, cannot pass over in Silence the Reflection, that your noble and great Lordships, taking a Resolution the most favourable, upon the said Request, have discovered thereby, that they would not abandon the footsteps of their Ancestors, who found in the united sentiments of Magistrates and Citizens, the Resources necessary to resist a powerfull oppressor, who even would not have undertaken that difficult, but glorious Task, if they had not been supported by the voice of the most respectable Part of the Nation.

That encouraged by this Reflection, the Petitioners assure themselves, that your noble and great Lordships will honour, with the same Approbation

tion, the step, which they take to day, to recommend to your noble and great Lordships, in a manner the most respectfull, but at the same time the most pressing, the prompt and efficacious Execution of the aforesaid Resolution of their noble and grand Mightinesses of the 28 of March last, with every thing which depends thereon; a Proceeding, which does not spring from a desire, on the part of the Petitioners, to raise themselves above the sphere of their duties and vocations, or to interfere, indiscreetly, the affairs of Government, but only from a Conviction, that it cannot but be agreeable to well intentioned Regents (such as your Noble and great Lordships, have shewn yourselves by Deeds to your good Citizens) to see themselves applauded in their salutary Efforts and patriotick Designs, and supported against the perverse views, and secret machinations of the ill disposed, who, however small their Number, are always found in a nation.

That, although the Petitioners may be convinced, that their noble and grand Mightinesses, having taken a Resolution so agreeable to all true Patriots, will not neglect to employ means to carry it to an efficacious Conclusion among the other Confederates, and to procure to the good Citizens, the real Enjoyment of the Commerce with United America, they cannot, nevertheless, dissemble, that lately some new Reasons have arisen, which make them conceive some fears respecting the prompt Consummation of this desirable affair.

That the Probability of an offer of Peace, on the part of Great-Britain, to United America, whereof the Petitioners made mention in their former Request, having at present become a full Certainty, by the Revolution arrived since in the British

Ministry, they have not learned without Uneasiness the attempt made at the same time by the new Ministers of the Court of London, to involve this State, in a Negotiation for a separate Peace, the immediate Consequence of which would be (as the Petitioners fear) a Cessation of all Connections with the American Republick, whilst that in the mean time our Republick, deprived on the one hand of the Advantages, which it reasonably promises itself from these Connections, might on the other hand be detained by Negotiations, spun out to a great Length, and not effect till late, perhaps after the other belligerent Powers, a separate Peace with England.

That in effect the Difficulties, which oppose themselves to a like partial Pacification, are too multipleid for one, to promise himself to see them suddenly removed, such as the Restitution of the Possessions taken from the State, and retaken from the English by France, a Restitution, which is become thereby impracticable, the Indemnification of the immense Losses, that, the unexpected and perfidious Attack of England hath caused to the Dutch Nation in general, to the Petitioners in particular; the Assurance of a free Navigation, for the future, upon the Principles of the armed Neutrality, and conformably to the Law of Nations; the Dissolution of the Bonds, which, without being productive of any Utility to the two Nations, have been a source of Contestations, always springing up, and which, in every war between Great Britain and any other Power, have threatened to involve our Republick in it, or have in effect done it; the Annihilation, if possible, of the act of Navigation, an act, which carries too evident

dent marks of the supremacy affected by England over all other maritime People, not to attract Attention, at the approaching Negotiation of Peace; finally, the Necessity of breaking the yoke, that Great Britain would impose on our Flag, to make hers respected in the northern Ocean, as the seat of her maritime Empire; and other objects of this Nature, which, as the petulant Proceedings of the Court of London have given rise to them, will certainly furnish matter for Claims and Negotiations.

That, as by these Considerations a speedy Consummation of a separate Peace with England is out of all Probability, especially when one compares with them the dubious and limited manner, in which it is offered; on the other hand a general Peace appears not to be so for distant, as that to obtain a more prompt Reconciliation with England, the Republick hath occasion to abandon its Interests relative to North America, seeing that the British Government hath resolved, upon the Request of the national Assembly, even to discontinue offensive Hostilities against the new Republick; and that even under the present Administration of the new Ministers, it appears ready to acknowledge positively its Independence; an acknowledgment, which, in removing the principal stumbling Block of a Negotiation of a general Peace, will pave the way to a prompt Explication of all the Difficulties between the Belligerent Powers.

That the Petitioners should exceed much the Bounds of their Plan, if they entered into a more ample detail of the Reasons which might be alleged upon this subject, and which certainly will

not escape the political Penetration of your noble and great Lordships, among others, the Engagements recently entered into with the Court of France, and which will not be violated by our Republick, which acknowledges the sanctity of its Engagements, and respects them; but which will serve much rather to convince the Empress of Russia of the Impossibility of entering, in the present Juncture of Affairs, into such a Negotiation, as the Court of London proposes, when even it will not be permitted to presume, but that Sovereign will feel herself the Change of Circumstances, which have happened with regard to America since the offer of her Mediation, by the Revolution in the British Ministry, and that she ought even to regard a separate Peace between our State and England, as the most proper mean to retard the general Tranquility, that she hath endeavoured to procure to all the Commercial Nations now in war.

That from these Motives the Petitioners respectfully hope, that the aforesaid offer of England will occasion no obstacle, which may prevent, that the Resolution of their noble and grand Mightinesses, to acknowledge the Independence of North America, and to conclude with that Power a Treaty of Commerce, may not have a prompt Execution, nor that even one only of the other Confederates will suffer itself to be diverted thereby from the design of opening unanimously with this Province, and the others which have declared themselves conformably with Holland, Negotiations with the United States, and of terminating them as soon as possible.

That the favourable Resolutions, already taken for this effect in Zeeland, Utrecht, Overysse, and

and at present (as the Petitioners learn) in the Province of Groningen after the Examples of Holland and Friesland, confirm them in that hope, and seem to render entirely superfluous, a Request, that in every other Case the Petitioners would have found themselves obliged to make with the commercial Citizens of the other Cities, to the end, that by the Resistance of one Province, not immediately interested in Commerce and Navigation, they might not be deprived of the Advantages and of the Protection, that the sovereign Assembly of their proper Province had been disposed to procure them, without that, but that, to the end to provide for it, their noble and grand Mightinesses, and the States of the other Provinces in this respect, Unanimous with them, should make use of the Power, which belongs to each free State of our federative Republick, at least in regard to Treaties of Commerce, of which there exists an Example in 1649, not only in a Treaty of Redemption of the Toll of the Sound, but also, in a defensive Treaty concluded with the Crown of Denmark by the three Provinces of Guelderland, Holland and Friesland.

But as every Apprehension of a similar Dissention, among the members of the Confederation, appears at present absolutely unseasonable, the Petitioners will confine themselves rather to another Request, to wit, that after the formation of Connections of Commerce with North America, the effectual Enjoyment of it may be assured to the Commercial Citizens of this Country, by a sufficient Protection of their Navigation, without which the Conclusion even of such a Treaty of Commerce would be absolutely illusory. That for a long time, especially the last year, the Petitioners have ta-

sted the bitter Fruits of the defenceless state, in which the Dutch Flagg has been incessantly found, as they have already said, conformably to the truth, in their first request, „ that by the total „ stagnation of the Navigation, and of Expedi- „ tions, they have felt in the most painfull man- „ ner, the effects of the hostile and unexpected „ Attack of Great Britain, and that they feel „ them still every day”. That in the mean time this stagnation of Commerce, absolutely abandoned to the Rapacity of an Ennemy greedy of Pillage, and destitute of all Protection whatever, hath appeared to the Petitioners, as well as to all the other Commercial inhabitants, yes even to all true Citizens, so much the more hard and afflicting, as they not only have constantly contributed with a good Heart, all the public Imposts, but that at the time, even that the Commerce was absolutely abandoned to itself, and deprived of all Safe-guard, it supported a double Charge to obtain that Protection, which it hath never enjoyed, seeing that the hope of such a Protection, (the Republick not being entirely without maritime Force) hath appeared indeed more than once, but has always vanished in the most unexpected manner, by accidents and impediments, which, if they have given rise, perhaps wrongfully, to discontent and to distrust among the good Citizens, will not nevertheless be read and meditated by Posterity without surprize.

That, without Intention to legitimate, in any manner, the suspicions arising from this failure of Protection, the Petitioners believe themselves, nevertheless, with all proper respect warranted, in addressing their Complaints on this head, to the Bosoms of your noble and great Lordships, and (seeing that the
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Commerce with North America cannot subsist without Navigation, no more than Navigation without a Safeguard) in reckoning upon the active Direction, the usefull Employment, and prompt Augmentation of our naval Forces, in Proportion to the means, which shall be the most proper effectually, to secure to the Commerce of this Republick the Fruits of its Connections with United North America.

For which Reasons, the Petitioners, returning their solemn Thanks to your noble and great Lordships, for the favourable Resolution taken upon their request the 18th. of March last, address themselves anew to you, on this occasion, with the respectfull Prayer „ that it may graciously please „ your noble and great Lordships, to be willing „ to effectuate by your powerfull Influence, whether in the illustrious Assembly of their noble „ and grand Mightinesses, whether among the other „ Confederates, or elsewhere, there, and in such „ manner as your noble and great Lordships „ shall judge most proper, that the Resolution „ of their noble and grand Mightinesses of the „ date of the 28 of March last, for the Admission of Mr. Adams, in quality of Minister „ of the United States of America, be promptly executed, and that the Petitioners, with „ the other Commercial Citizens, obtain the „ effectual Enjoyment of a Treaty of Commerce „ with the said Republick, as well by the activity „ of the Marine of the State, and the Protection „ of Commerce and Navigation, as by all other „ measures, that your noble and great Lordships „ with the other members of the Sovereign Government of the Republick, shall judge to „ tend

„ tend to the public Good, and to serve to the
 „ Prosperity of the dear Country, as well as
 „ to the maintenance of its precious Liberties.

So doing &c.

ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM.

*PETITION of the Merchants, Insurers,
and Freighters of Rotterdam to the
Regency of that City.*

GIVE to understand, in the most respectfull manner, that it is sufficiently notorious, that the Inhabitants of this Republick have, as well as any other Nation, an Interest, that they give us an opportunity to open a free Communication and Correspondance with the Inhabitants of America, by making a Treaty of Commerce, as Mr. Adams has represented in his Memorial; to which they add, that the Advantages, which must result from it, are absolutely the only means of reviving the fallen Commerce of this Country; for reestablishing the Navigation, and for repairing the great Damages, which the perfidious Proceedings of the English have, for so many years, caused to the commercial Part of this Country.

That, with all due respect, they represent to the venerable Regency the danger we run, in prolonging further the deliberations, concerning the Article of an alliance of Commerce with North America; being moreover certain, that the Interposition of this State cannot add any Thing more to the solidity of its Independence, and that the English Ministry has even made to the Deputies of the American Congress Propositions, to what Point they would establish a Correspondence there, to our Prejudice, and thereby deprive

ve the Inhabitants of this Country of the certain Advantages which might result from this reciprocal Commerce; and that thus we ought not to delay one day, nor even one hour, to try all the efforts, that we may pursue the Negotiation offered by M. Adams, and that we may decide finally upon it. Whereupon the Petitioners represent, with all the respect possible, but at the same time with the firmest Confidence, to the venerable Regency of this City, that they would authorize and qualify the Lords their Deputies at the Assembly of their noble and grand Mightinesses, to the end, that they insist in a manner the most energetic, at the Assembly of their noble and grand Mightinesses, that the Resolution demanded may be taken without the least delay, to the end, that, on the Part of this Province, it be effected at the Assembly of the States General, that the American Minister Mr. Adams be as soon as possible admitted to the Audience which he has demanded, and that they take with him the determinations necessary to render free and open to the reciprocal Inhabitants, the Correspondence demanded.

So doing &c.

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THE PETITIONS of the Merchants, and Manufacturers of HAERLEM, LEIDEN and AMSTERDAM, which have been presented on the twentyeth of March to THEIR HIGH-MIGHTINESSES, were accompanied with an other to the States of HOLLAND and WEST-FRIESLAND, conceived in these Terms.

THE Subscribers, Inhabitants of this Country, Merchants, Manufacturers, and others, living by Commerce, give with all respect to understand, that they have the honour to annex hereto a Copy of a Petition presented by them to their High-Mightinesses, the States General of the United Low-Countries. The Importance of the Thing which it contains, the considerable Commerce, which these Countries might establish in North-America, the Profits which we might draw from it, and the Importance of Industry and Manufactures, by the relation which they have with Commerce in general, as well as the Navigation to that extensive Country; all these Objects have made them take the liberty to represent, in the most respectful manner, this great affair for them and for the Connections which the Petitioners may have, in quality of Manufacturers, with the Merchants, most humbly praying your noble and grand Mightinesses, for the acquisition of these important Branches of Commerce, and for the advantage of all the Manufactures, and other works of Labour and of Trafick, to be so good as to take this Petition, and the Reasons which it contains, into your
high

high Consideration, and to favour it with your powerfull Support and Protection, and by a favourable Resolution, which may be taken at the assembly of their High Mightinesses, to direct, on the Part of this Province, things in such a manner, that for obtaining this Commerce so desired and so necessary for this Republick, that there be concerted such efficacious measures, as the high wisdom and patriotic sentiments of your noble and grand Mightinesses may find convenient, for the well-being of so great a Numbre of Inhabitants, and for the Prejudice of their Ennemies.

So doing &c.

D O R D R E C H T.

AT DORDRECHT there has not been presented any Petition. But on the twentyeth of March the Merchants, convinced by redoubled proofs of the Zeal, and of the Efforts of their Regency, for the true Interests of Commerce, judged it unnecessary to present a Petition after the example of the Merchants of other Cities: they contended themselves with testifying verbally their desire, that there might be contracted connections of Commerce with the United States of America: that this step had been crowned with such happy success, that the same day 20 March 1782, it was resolved by the ancient Council, to authorize their Deputies at the Assembly of Holland, to concur in every manner possible, that, without delay, Mr. Adams be acknowledged in his Quality of Minister Plenipotentiary; that his Letters of Credence be accepted, and Conferences opened upon this object.

Z W O L L

I N O V E R S S E L.

THE Subscribers, all Merchants, Manufacturers, and Factors of the City of Zwoll, give respectfully to understand, that every one of them, in his private concerns, finds by experience, as well as the Inhabitants of the Republick in general, the grievous effects of the decay into which Commerce, and the Manufactures of this Country are fallen, little by little, and above all, since the hostile attack of the Kingdom of England against this State; that it being their duty to their Country, as well as to themselves, to make use of all the circumstances which might contribute to their reestablishment, the Requisition made not long since by Mr. Adams to the Republick, to wit to conclude a Treaty of Commerce with the United States of North-America, could not escape their attention; an affair whose Utility, Advantage and Necessity, for these Provinces, are so evident, and so often proved in an incontestible manner, that the Petitioners will not fatigue your noble Lordships, by placing them before you, nor the general Interests of this City, nor the particular Relations of the Petitioners, considering that they are convinced, in the first place, that England making against the Republick the most ruinous war, and having broken every Treaty with her, all kind of Complaisance for that Kingdom is unseasonable.

In the second Place, that America, which ought to be regarded as become free at the point of the sword, and as willing, by the Prohibition of all the Productions and Manufactures of England, to break absolutely with that Kingdom; it is precisely the time, and perhaps the only time, in which we may have a favourable opportunity, to enter into Connection with this new and powerfull Republick; a time which we cannot neglect without running the greatest risque of being irrevocably prevented by the other Powers, and even by England. Thus we take the Liberty, respectfully to supplicate your noble Lordships, that having shewn for a long time, that you set a value upon the formation of Alliances with powerfull States, you may have the goodness, at the approaching Assembly of the Nobility and of the Cities forming the States of this Province, to redouble your efforts; to the end, that in the name of this Country it may be decided at the Generality; that Mr. Adams be acknowledged, and the proposed Negotiations opened as soon as possible.

So doing &c.

PETITION OF AMSTERDAM.

To their High Mightinesses, the States General of the United Provinces, the undersigned, Merchants, Manufacturers and others, Inhabitants living by Commerce in this Country, give respectfully to understand:

That, although the Petitioners have always relied, with entire confidence upon the Administration and the Resolutions of your High-Mightinesses, and it is against their Inclinations to interrupt your important deliberations, they think, however, that they ought, at this time, to take the Liberty, and believe as well intentioned Inhabitants, that it is their indispensable Duty in the present moment, which is most critical for the Republick, to lay humbly before your High-Mightinesses their Interests.

What good Citizen, in the Republick, having at heart the Interest of his dear Country, can dissemble, or represent to himself without dismay, the sad situation, to which we are reduced by the attack, equally sudden, unjust and perfidious of the English? who would have dared, two years ago, to foretell, and, notwithstanding the dark clouds, which even then began to form themselves, could even have imagined, that our Commerce, and our Navigation, with the immense affairs which depend upon them, the support and the prosperity of this Republick, could have fallen and remained in such a terrible decay? that in 1780, more than two thousands of Dutch vessells, having passed the Sound, not one was found upon
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the List in 1781? That the Ocean, heretofore covered with our vessels, should see at present scarcely any? and that we may be reduced to see our navigation, formerly so much respected and preferred by all the nations, pass entirely into the hands of other Powers? It would be superfluous, to endeavour to explain at length, the damages, the enormous losses, which our Inhabitants have sustained by the sudden Invasion, and the Pillage of the Colonies, and of their ships: disasters], which not only fall directly upon the Merchant, but which have also a general influence, and make themselves felt in the most melancholly manner, even by the lowest Artisans and Labourers, by the languor which they occasion in Commerce. But, how great soever they may be, it might perhaps be possible, by the aid of the paternal cares of your High-Mightinesses, and by opposing a vigorous resistance to the Enemy, already enervated, to repair in time all these Losses, (without mentioning Indemnifications) if this stagnation of Commerce was only momentary, and if the industrious Merchant did not see beforehand the sources of his future felicity dried up. It is this gloomy foresight, which, in this moment afflicts, in the highest degree, the Petitioners; for it would be the height of Folly and Inconsideration, to desire still to flatter ourselves, and to remain quiet, in the expectation, that, after the conclusion of the Peace, the Business, at present turned out of its direction, should return entirely into this country; for experience shews the contrary in a manner the most convincing; and it is most probable, that the same nations, who are actually in possession of it, will preserve, at that time, the greatest part of it. Your alarmed Petitioners throw their eyes round

every where, to discover new sources, capable of procuring them more success in future; they even flatter themselves, that they have found them upon the new theatre of Commerce, which the United States of America offer them; a Commerce, of which, in this moment, but in this moment only, they believe themselves to be in a condition, to be able to assure to themselves a good share, and the great Importance of which, joined to the fear of seeing escape from their hands this only and last Resource, has induced them to take the resolution, to lay open respectfully their Observations, concerning this important object, to your High-Mightinesses, with the earnest Prayer, that you would consider them with a serious attention, and not interpret in ill part this measure of the Petitioners, especially as their future wellbeing, perhaps even that of the whole Republick, depends on the decision of this affair.

No man can call in question, that England has derived her greatest forces from her Commerce with America; those immense Treasures, which that commerce has poured into the Coffers of the State; the uncommon prosperity of several of her commercial Houses, the extream Reputation of her Manufactures, the Consumption of which, in quantities beyond all bounds, contributes efficaciously to their Perfection, are convincing proofs of it. However it may be, and notwithstanding the supposition too lightly adopted, that we cannot imitate the British Manufactures; the Manufacture of painted Linnens of Rouen, those of wool of Amiens, of Germany, of Overysfel, the Pins of Zwooll, prove visibly, that all things need not be drawn from England; that, moreover, we are as well in a condition, or shall soon be, to equal them in several respects.

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Permit us, high and mighty Lords, to the end to avoid all further digression, to request in this regard the attention of your high - Mightinesses, to the situation of Commerce in France at the beginning of the war. Continual Losses had almost ruined it altogether like ours; several of her Merchants failed of Capitals, and others wanted courage to continue their Commerce; her Manufactures languished; the People groaned; in one word, every thing there marked out the horrors of war. But, at present, her maritime Towns, overpeopled, have occasion to be enlarged; her Manufactures having arrived at a degree of exportation unknown before, begin to perfect themselves more and more, in such a degree, that the melancholly Consequences of the war are scarcely felt in that Kingdom. But since it is incontestable, that this favourable alteration results almost entirely from its Commerce with America, that even this has taken place in time of war, which, moreover, is ever prejudicial, we leave it to the enlightened Judgment of your High-Mightinesses, to decide, what it is that we may expect from a Commerce of this nature, even at present, but especially in time of Peace. In the mean time, we have had the happiness to make a tryal, of short duration, it is true, but very strong in proportion to its continuance, in our Colony of St. Eustatia, of the importance of the commerce, tho' not direct, with North-America. The Registers of the West-India Company may furnish proofs of it very convincing to your High-Mightinesses; in fact, their Productions are infinitely suitable to our Market, whilst, on our side, we have to send them several articles of Convenience and of Necessity from our own Coun-

try, or from the neighbouring States of Germany. Moreover, several of our languishing manufactures, scattered in the seven United Provinces, may perhaps be restored to their former vigour, by means of Bounties, or the Diminution of Imposts. The Importance of Manufactures for a Country is sufficiently proved, by the considerable Gratifications promised and paid by British Policy for their encouragement, and by the Advantages which that Kingdom has procured to itself by this means, even beyond what had been expected.

The Petitioners know perfectly well the obstacles, almost insurmountable, which always oppose themselves to the habitual use of new Manufactures, although certainly better in quality; and they dare advance without hesitation, that several of our Manufactures are superiour to those of the English: a moment more favourable can never offer itself than the present, when by a Resolution of Congress the Importation of all the effects of the Produce of Great Britain, and of her Colonies, is forbidden; which reduces the Merchant and the Purchaser to the necessity of recurring to other Merchandises, the use of which will serve to dissipate the Prejudice conceived against them. It is not only the Manufactures, high and mighty Lords, which promise a permanent advantage to our Republick: the Navigation will derive also great advantages; for it is very far from being true (as several would maintain) that the Americans, being once in the tranquil possession of their Independence, would themselves exercise with vigour these two Branches, and that in the sequel we shall be wholly frustrated of them. Whoever has the least knowledge of the Country.

try of America, and of its vast Extent, knows that the Number of Inhabitants is not there in Proportion. That even the two Banks of the Mississippi, the most beautifull tract of this Country, otherwise so fertile, remain still uncultivated: and as there are wanted so many hands, it is not at all probable to presume, that they will or can occupy themselves to establish new Manufactures, both because of the new Charges; which are thereunto attached, and because of the shackles, which they would put upon the Augmentation and Exportation of their Productions.

It is then for these same reasons [the want of Population] that they will scarcely find the hands necessary to take advantage of the Fisheries, which are the Property of their Country; which will certainly oblige them to abandon to us the Navigation of Freight. There is not therefore any one of our Provinces, much less any one of our Cities, which cannot enjoy the advantage of this Commerce; No, High and mighty Lords, the Petitioners are persuaded that the utility and the benefit of it, will spread itself over all the Provinces and Countries of the Generality. Guelderland and Overysfel cannot too much extend their Manufactures of Wool, of Swanskin and other things: even the Shoemakers of the Mayoralty, and of Langstreet, will find a considerable opening: almost all the Manufactures of Utrecht and of Leyden will flourish anew. Harlem will see revive its Manufactures of Stuffs, of Laces, of Ribbons, of Twist, at present in the lowest state of decay. Delft will see vastly augmented the sale of its Earthen ware, and Gouda that of its Tabacco Pipes.

However great may be the advantages fore-
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seen by the Petitioners, from a legal Commerce duely protected with America, their fear is not less, lest we should suffer to escape the happy moment of assuring to them, and to all the Republick, these advantages. The present moment must determine the whole. The English Nation is weary of the war, and as that People runs easily into extreams, the Petitioners are afraid, with strong probable appearances, that a compleat acknowledgment of American Independance will soon take place; above all, if the English see an opportunity of being able still to draw from America some conditions favourable for them, or at least something to our disadvantage. Ah! what is it, which should instigate the Americans, in making Peace, and renewing Friendship with Great Britain, to have any regard for the Interests of our Republick? If England could only obtain for a Condition, that we should be obliged to pay Duties more burthensome for our Vessels, this would be not only a continual and permanent Prejudice; but would be sufficient, to transmit to Posterity a lamentable Proof of our excessive Deference for unbridled Enemies.

The Petitioners dare flatter themselves, that a measure so frank of this Republick, may powerfully serve for the Acceleration of a general Peace. A general ardour, to extinguish the flames of war, reigns in England; an upright and vigorous conduct, on the part of this Republick, will contribute to accelerate the accomplishment of the wishes for Peace.

We flatter ourselves, High and Mighty Lords, that we have in this regard alledged sufficient reasons for an immediate decision; and that we have so visibly proved the danger of Delay, that
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we dare to hope from the paternal Equity of your High - Mightinesses, a reasonable attention to the respectfull Proposition which we have made. It proceeds from no other motive, than a sincere affection for the precious Interests of our dear Country; since we consider it as certain, that as soon as the step taken by us shall be known by the English, and that they shall have the least hope of preventing us, they will not fail, as soon as possible, to acknowledge American Independence. Supported by all these reasons, the Petitioners address themselves to your High - Mightinesses, humbly requesting, that it may please your High - Mightinesses, after the occurrences and affairs above mentioned, to take, for the greatest advantage of this Country, as soon as possible, such Resolution as your High - Mightinesses shall judge most convenient.

This doing &c.

PETITION

P E T I T I O N

to the Burgomasters and Regents of

A M S T E R D A M.

The Subscribers, all Merchants and Manufacturers of this City, with all due Respect, give to understand: That the Difference arisen between the Kingdom of Great-Britain and the United States of America, has not only given occasion for a long and violent war, but that the arms of America have covered themselves with a success so happy, that the Congress, assisted by the Courts of France and Spain, have so well established their Liberty and Independence, and reduced Great Britain to extremities so critical, that the House of Commons in England, notwithstanding all the oppositions of the British Ministry, have lately formed the important Resolution, to turn the King from an offensive war against America, with no other design than to accelerate, if it is possible, a Reconciliation with America.

That to this happy Revolution in the dispositions of the English in favour of the Liberty and Independence of America, according to all appearances, the Resolution taken by the Congress, towards the end of the last year, to wit, to forbid in all America the Importation of British Manufactures and Productions, has greatly contributed: a Resolution, of which they perceive in England,

gland, too visibly, the consequences ruinous to their Manufactures, Trades, Commerce, and Navigation, to be able to remain indifferent in this regard. For all other commercial Nations, who take to heart, ever so little, their own Prosperity, will apply themselves ardently, to collect from it all the fruit possible. To this effect, it would be unpardonable for the Business and Commerce of this Republick in general, and for those of this City in particular, to suffer to escape this occasion so favourable for the encouragement of our Manufactures so declined, and languishing in the interiour Cities, as well as that of the Commerce and Navigation in the maritime Cities; or to suffer that other commercial Nations, even with a total exclusion of the mercantile Interests of this Republick, should profit of it, and this upon an occasion, when, by reason of the war, equally unjust and ruinous, in which the Kingdom of Great-Britain has involved this Republick, we cannot, and ought not to have the least Regard or Condescension for that jealous State, being able even to oblige this arrogant Neighbour, in the just fear of the consequences, which a more intimate Connection between this Republick and North-America would undoubtedly have, to lay down the sooner her Arms, and restore Tranquility to all Europe.

That the Petitioners, notwithstanding the Inclination they have for it, ought not nevertheless to explain themselves farther upon this object, nor make a demonstration in detail of the important advantages, which this Republick may procure itself by a Connection and a Relation more intimate with North-America; both because that no well-informed man can easily call the
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thing in question, or contradict it; but also, because the States of Friesland themselves have very lately explained themselves, in a manner so remarkable, in this respect; and which is still more remarkable, because in very different Circumstances, with a Foresight, which Posterity will celebrate by so much the more, as it is attacked in our time by ill designing Citizens, the Lords your Predecessors thought, four years ago, upon the means of hindering this Republick from being excluded from the Business of the new World, and from falling into the disagreeable situation, in which the Kingdom of Portugal is at present, considering that, according to the Informations of your Petitioners, the Congress has excluded that Kingdom from all Commerce and Business with North-America, solely, because it had perceived that it suffered itself to be too strongly directed by the Influence of the British Court. This example makes us fear with reason, that if the Propositions made, in the name of America, by Mr. Adams to this Republick, should remain, as they still are, without an answer, or that, if, contrary to all expectation, they should be rejected, in that Case the Republick ought not to expect a better Treatment.

That, for these reasons and many others, the Petitioners had flattered themselves, that we should long ago have opened Negotiations, and a closer Correspondence, with the United States of America. But this important work appeared too meet with difficulties with some, as incompatible with the Accession of this Republick to the armed Neutrality, and in course, with the accepted Mediation; whilst that others cannot be persuaded to make this so necessary step, in the
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opinion, that we cannot draw any advantage, or at least of much Importance, from a more strict Connection with America: Reasons, according to the Petitioners, the Frivolity of which is apparent to every one, who is not filled with Prejudice, without having occasion to employ many words to point it out. For, as to the first Point, supposing for a moment, that it might be made a question, whether the Republick, after her Accession to the armed Neutrality, before the war with England could take a step of this nature, without renouncing at the same time the Advantages of the armed Neutrality, which it had embraced; it is at least very certain, that every difficulty concerning the Competency of the Republick to take a similar step, vanishes and disappears of itself at present, when it finds itself involved in a war with Great-Britain, since from that moment she could not only demand, the assistance and succour of all the Confederates in the armed Neutrality, but that thereby she finds herself authorized, for her own defence, to employ all sorts of means, violent and others, which she could not before adopt nor put in use, while she was really in the Position of a Neutral Power, which would profit of the advantages of the armed Neutrality. This Reasoning then proves evidently, that in the present situation of affairs, the Republick might acknowledge the Independence of America, and notwithstanding this, claim of full right the Assistance of her neutral Allies, at least, if we would not maintain one of the two following absurdities: that, notwithstanding the violent aggression of England in Retentment of our Accession to the armed Neutrality, we dare not defend ourselves, untill our Confederates shall think proper

to come to our assistance; or, otherwise, that being attacked by the English, it should be permitted us, conformably to the rights of the armed Neutrality, to resist them in Arms, whether on the Doggersbank or elsewhere, but not by contracting Alliances, which certainly do no Injury or harm to the Convention of the armed Neutrality, notwithstanding even the small hope we have of being succoured by the Allies of the armed Confederation. The Argument of the Mediation is still more contrary to common sense in this, that it supposes, that the Republick, by accepting the Mediation, has also renounced the Employment of all the means, by the way of Arms, of Alliances, or otherwise, which it might judge usefull or necessary to annoy her Enemy: a supposition, which certainly is destitute of all foundation, and which would reduce it simply to a real Suspension of Hostilities on the Part of the Republick only; to which the Republick can never have consented, neither directly nor indirectly.

Besides this last Argument, the Petitioners ought to observe, in the first place, that by means of a good Harmony and Friendship with the United States of America, there will spring up, not only different Sources of Business for this Republick, founded solely on Commerce and Navigation, but in particular the Manufactures and Trade will assume a new Activity in the interiour Cities; for they may consume the amount of Millions of our Manufactures in that new Country, of so vast Extent: In the second Place, abstracted from all Interests of Commerce, the Friendship or the Enmity of a Nation, which, after having made Prisoners of two English Armies, has known how

to render herself respectable and formidable, if it were only in relation to the western Possessions of this State, is not and cannot be in any manner indifferent for our Republick. In the last place, it is necessary that the Petitioners remark farther in this respect, that several Inhabitants of this Republick, in the present situation of affairs, suffer very considerable Losses and Damages, which at least hereafter might be wholly prevented, or in part, in case we should make with the United States of America, with relation to Vessels and Effects recaptured, a Convention similar to that, which has been made with the Crown of France the last year; for, venerable Regents, if a Convention of this nature had been contracted in the beginning of this war, the Inhabitants of the Republick would have already derived important advantages from it, considering that several Ships and Cargoes, taken by the English from the Inhabitants of this State, have fallen into the hands of the Americans; among others, two Vessels from the West-Indies, richly loaded, and making sail for the Ports of the Republick, and both estimated at more than a Million of Florins of Holland; which captured by the English at the commencement of the year past, were carried into North-America, where, after the Capitulation of General Cornwallis, they passed from the hands of the English into others.

That, although the Petitioners are fully convinced, that the Interests of the Commerce of this common Country, and of this City, have constantly, but especially in these last years, attracted, and still attract every day, a great part of the Care of the venerable Regency; nevertheless, ha-

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ving regard to the Importance of the affair, the Petitioners have thought that they might, and that they ought to take the Liberty, to address themselves with this Petition to you, venerable Regents, to inform you, according to truth, that the moments are precious, that we cannot lose any time, how little soever it may be, without running the greatest risque of losing all; since, by hesitating longer, the Republick, according to all appearances, would not derive any advantage, not even more than it has derived from its accession to the armed Neutrality; because that in the fear of British menaces, we did not determine to accede to it, untill the opportunity of improving the advantage of it, was passed.

For these Causes, the Petitioners address themselves to you, venerable Regents, respectfully soliciting, that your efficacious Influence may condescend, at the Assembly of their noble and grand Mightinesses the States of this Province, to direct affairs in such a manner, that upon this important object there may be taken as soon as possible, and, if possible, even during the continuance of this Assembly, a final and decisive Resolution, such as you, venerable Regents and their noble and grand Mightinesses, according to their high wisdom, shall judge the most convenient: and if; contrary to all Expectation, this important operation should meet with any obstacle on the part of one or more of the Confederates, that in that case you, venerable Regents, in Concert with the Province of Friesland, and those of the other Provinces, who make no difficulty to open a Negotiation with America, will condescend to consider of the means, which shall be found pro
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per and convenient to effectuate, that the Commerce of this Province, as well as that of Friesland and the other Members adopting the same opinion, may not be prejudiced by any dilatory deliberations, nor too late resolved, for the Conclusion of a Measure as important as necessary.

So doing &c.

AMSTERDAM.

ADDRESS of the Merchants, &c. to their Regency.

NOBLE, GREAT, AND VENERABLE LORDS!

IT is for us a particular Satisfaction, to be able to offer to your noble and great Lordships, as Heads of the Regency of this City, this well intentioned Address, that a multitude of our most respectable fellow-Citizens have signed. It was already prepared and signed by many, when we learned, as well by the publick Papers as otherwise, the Propositions of a particular Peace, with an offer of an immediate suspension of Hostilities, on the part of Great-Britain, made to this State by the Mediation of the Russian Ambassador. This is the only reason, why no immediate mention was made of it in the Address itself. It is by no means the idea, that these offers would have made any Impression upon the Merchants; since we can, on the contrary, in truth assure your noble and great Lordships, that the unanimous sentiment nearly of the Exchange of Amsterdam, as much as that is interested in it, is entirely conformable to that, which the Merchants of Rotterdam have made known in so energetic a manner: That consequently we have the greatest Aversion to like offers, as artfull as dangerous, which being adopted, would very probably throw this Republick into other situations very embarrassing, the immediate consequences of which would be, to ruin it total-

totally: whereas, on the other hand, these offers shew, that we have only to deal with an Enemy exhausted, whom we could force to a general and durable Peace in the End, by following only the example of France, Spain, and North-America, and by using the means which are in our Hands.

It is improper for us, however, to enlarge further upon this Project, important as it may be, being well assured, that your noble and great Lordships see those grievous Consequences more clearly, than we can trace them.

The Merchants continue to recommend their Commerce and Navigation to the constant Care and Protection of your noble and great Lordships, and to insist only, that in case these offers of the Court of England should be, at any time, the Cause, that the affair of the Admission of Mr. Adams, in Quality of Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, should meet with any difficulty or delay on the part of the other Confederates, that your noble and great Lordships, conformably to the second Article of our Requisition, inserted in this Request, would have the Goodness to think upon measures, which would secure this Province from the ruinous Consequences of such a Proceeding.

To the foregoing was joined the Address presented to the Burgomasters and the Council, which is of the following Tenor.

NOBLE, GREAT, VENERABLE, AND NOBLE AND VENERABLE LORDS!

The undersigned, Merchants, Citizens, and Inhabitants of the City of Amsterdam, have learned with an inexpressible joy, the news of the

Resolution taken the twenty-eighth of March last by their noble and grand Mightinesses, the Lords the States of Holland and West-Friesland. Their noble and grand Mightinesses have thereby, not onle satisfied the general wishes of the greatest and best part of the Inhabitants of this Province, but they have laid the Foundations of ulteriouir Alliances and Correspondencies of Friendship and of good understanding with the United States of America, which promise new Life to the languishing state of our Commerce, Navigation and Manufactures. The Unanimity with which that Resolution was decided in the Assembly of Holland, gives us grounds to hope, that the States of the other Provinces will not delay to take a similar Resolution; whilst the same Unamity fills with the most lively Satisfaction the well intentioned Inhabitants of this City, and without doubt those of the whole Country, in convincing them fully, that the Union among the sage and venerable Fathers of the Country increascs more and more; whilst that the Promptness and Activity, with which it hath been concluded, make us hope, with reason, that we shall reap, in time, from a step so important, and so necessary for this Republick, the desired Fruits. Who then can call in question, or disavow, that the moment seems to approach nearer and nearer, when this Republick shall enter into new Relations with a People, which finds itself in Circumstances, which differ but little from those in which our Ancestors found themselves two Centuries ago; with a People which conciliates more and more the general Affection and Esteem.

The Conformity of Religion and Government, which is found between us and America, joined
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to the indubitable Marks, that she hath already long since given of the Preference that she feels for our Friendship, makes the undersigned not only suppose, but inspire them with, a Confidence, that our Connections with her will be equally solid, advantageous and salutary, to the Interests of the two Nations. The Wellbeing and Prosperity, which will very probably result from them; the Part which you, noble, great, venerable, and noble and venerable Lords, have had in the Conclusion of a Resolution so remarkable; the Conviction that the venerable Council of this City had of it, upon the Proposition of the noble, great and venerable Lords almost consented to, before the Request relative to this project presented not long since to you, noble, great and venerable Lords, had come to the knowledge of the Council; finally the Remembrance of that which was done upon this matter in the year 1778, with the best Intentions and the most laudable views, finding itself at present crowned with an approbation as publick as it is general, indispenibly oblige the undersigned to approach you with this Address; not only to congratulate you upon so remarkable an Event, but to thank you at the same time, with as much zeal as solemnity, for all those well intentioned Cares, and those well concerted Measures, for that inflexible Attachment, and that faithfull Adherence to the true Interests of the Country in general and of this City in particular, which manifest themselves, in so striking a manner, in all the Proceedings and Resolutions of your noble, great and venerable Lordships and of the venerable Council of this City, and which certainly will attract the esteem and veneration of the latest Posterity, when comparing the Annals and Events

of the present with those of former times, it shall discover that Amsterdam might still boast itself of possessing Patriots, who dared sacrifice generously all views of private Interests, of Grandeur and Consideration, to the sacred obligations that their Country requires of them.

We flatter ourselves, noble, great, venerable, noble and venerable Lords, that the present publick demonstration of our Esteem and Attachment, will be so much the more agreeable, as it is more rare in our Republick, and perhaps even it is without example, and as it is more proper to efface all the odious Impressions that the Calumny and Malignity of the English Ministry, not long ago so servilely adored by many, but whose downfall is at present consummated, had endeavoured to spread, particularly a little before and at the beginning of this war; Insinuations, which have since found Partisans in the United-Provinces, among those who have not been ashamed to paint the Exchange of Amsterdam (that is to say the most respectable and the most usefull part of the Citizens of this City; and at the same time the principal support of the wellbeing of the United Provinces) as if it consisted in a great part of a contemptible Herd of vile interested souls, having no other Object, than to give loose to their avidity, and to their desire of amassing Treasures, in defrauding the publick Revenues, and in transporting articles, against the Faith of Treaties; Calumniators, who have had at the same time; and have still, the audacity to affront the most upright Regency of the most considerable City of the Republick, and to expose it to publick Contempt, as if it participated by Connivance, and otherwise, in so shamefull a Commerce; Insinua-

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tions and Accusations, which have been spread, with as much falshood as wickedness, and which ought to excite so much the more the Indignation of every sensible Heart, when it is considered, that not only the Merchants of this City, but also those of the whole Republick, have so inviolably respected the Faith of Treaties, that to the astonishment of every impartial man, one cannot produce any Proofs, at least no sufficient Proofs, that there hath ever been transported from this Country Contrabande Merchandizes; whilst that the Con-
juncture, in which Imputations of this kind have been spread, rendered the Proceeding still more odious, seeing it has been done at an Epocha, when the Commerce and Navigation of Amsterdam, and of the whole Republick, would have experienced the first and almost the only Attack of an unjust and perfidious Ally, for want of necessary Protection, upon which you, noble, great, venerable, and noble and venerable Lords, have so often and so seriously insisted, even before the commencement of the Troubles between Great-Britain and the United States of America; at an Epocha, when the Merchant, formed for enterprises, was obliged to see the fruit of his Labour, and of his Cares, the recompence of his indefatigable, Industry, and the Patrimony destined to his Posterity, ravished from his hands by foreign violence and an unbounded Rapacity; at an epocha finally, when the wise and prudent Politicians, who had exhausted themselves and spared no pains for the publick Good, saw their patriotic views dissipated, and their Projects vanish.

Receive then, noble, great, venerable, and noble and venerable Lords, this solemn Testimony of our lively Gratitude, as graciously, as it is
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given sincerely on our part. Receive it as a Proof of our Attachment to your Persons; an Attachment, which is not founded upon Fear, nor an exteriour Representation of Authority and Grandeur, but which is founded on more noble and immoveable principles, those of esteem and Respect, arising from a sentiment of true Greatness and of Generosity. Be assured, that when contemptible Discord, with its odious attendants Artifice and Imposture, could effectuate nothing, absolutely nothing, at the moment when the present war broke out, to prejudice in the least the Fidelity of the Citizens of the Amstel, or to shake them in the observance of their Duties, the Inconveniences and the evils, that a war naturally and necessarily draws after it, will not produce the effect neither. Yes, we will submit more willingly to them, according as we shall perceive, that the means, that God and Nature have put into our Hands, are more and more employed to reduce and humble an haughty ennemy. Continue then, noble, great, venerable, noble and venerable Lords, to proceed with safety in the Road that you follow, the only one, which in our Opinion can, under the divine Benediction, tend to save the Country from its present situation. Let nothing divert or intimidate you from it. You have already surmounted the greatest difficulties, and the most poignant Cares. A more pleasing Perspective already opens. Great Britain, not long since so proud of her Forces, that she feared not to declare war against an ancient and faithfull Ally, already repents of that unjust and rash Proceeding; and, succumbing under the weight of a war, which becomes more and more burthensome, she sighs after Peace, whilst that the Harmony among the
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members of the supream Government of this Country increases with our Arms, according as your political system, whose Necessity and salutary Influence were heretofore less acknowledged, gains every day more numerous Imitators. The Resolution lately taken by the States of Friesland, and so unanimously adopted by our Province, furnishes, among many others, one incontestible Proof of it, whilst the naval Combat, fought the last year on Doggersbank, hath shewn to astonished Europe, that so long a Peace, hath not made the Republick forget the management of Arms, but that on the contrary it nourishes in its Bosom warriors, who tread in the footsteps of Tromps and Ruiters, from whose Prudence and Intrepidity, after a Beginning so glorious, we may promise ourselves the most heroic Actions; that their invincible Courage, little affected with an evident superiority, will procure one day to our Country an honourable and permanent Peace, which, in eternizing their military Glory, will cause the wise Policy of your noble, great, venerable, and noble and venerable Lordships, to be blessed by the latest Posterity.

UTRECHT.

24. April 1782.

TO THEIR NOBLE MIGHTINESSES, THE LORDS
THE STATES OF THE COUNTRY OF UTRECHT.

THE undersigned Manufacturers, Merchants, and other Traders of this City, give with due respect to understand, that the Petitioners placing their Confidence in the Interest, that your noble Mightinesses have always appeared to take in the advancement of Manufactures and Commerce, have not been at all scrupulous to recommend to the vigilant attention of your noble Mightinesses, the favourable occasion that offers itself in this moment, to revive the Manufactures, Commerce and Trades fallen into decay in this City and Province, in case that your noble Mightinesses acknowledged, in the name of this City, Mr. Adams as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, to the end that there might be formed with them a Treaty of Commerce for this Republick. As the Petitioners founded themselves thus upon the intimate sentiment of the execution of that, which your noble Mightinesses judge proper to the advancement of the well-being of the Petitioners and of their Interests, the Petitioners have further the satisfaction of seeing the most agreeable Proofs of it, when your noble Mightinesses, in your last Assembly, resolved unanimously to consent, not only to the admission of

Mr.

Mr. Adams in quality of Minister of the Congress of North-America, but to authorize the Lords the Deputies of this Province at the Generality, to conform themselves in the name of this Province, to the Resolutions of the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland and of Friesland, and doing this, to consent to the acknowledgment and admission of Mr. Adams, as Minister of the United States of America. As that Resolution furnishes the Proofs the best intentioned, the most patriotic, for the advancement of that which may serve to the wellbeing en to the encouragement of Manufactures, of Commerce and of decayed Trades, as well in general, as of this City and Province in particular, and which had been so ardently desired; the Petitioners thinck themselves indispensably obliged to testify, in the most respectfull manner, their gratitude for it to your noble Mightinesses. The Petitioners find themselves absolutely unable, to express in words the general satisfaction that this event hath caused not only to them, but also to the great and small of this Province; joined to the confirmation of the perfect Conviction in which they repose themselves also, for the future, upon the paternal care of your noble Mightinesses, that the Consummation of the desired Treaty of Commerce with the Americans may be soon effected. The Petitioners attest by the present, before your noble Mightinesses, their solemn and well-meant Gratitude, which they address at the same time to your noble Mightinesses, as the most sincere mark of veneration and respect for the Persons, and the direction of publick affairs, of your noble Mightinesses; praying that Almighty God may deign to bless the Efforts, and the Councils of your noble Mightinesses,

nesses, as well as those of the Confederates; that moreover this Province, and our dear Country, by the Propositions of an Armistice and that which depends thereon, should not be involved in any Negotiations for a particular Peace with our perfidious Enemy, but that we obtain no other Peace than a general Peace, which (as your noble Mightinesses express yourselves in your Resolution) may be compatible with their Honour and Dignity; and serve not only for this Generation, but also for the latest Posterity, as a Monument of Glory, of eternal Gratitude, to and esteem for the Persons and public Administration of the present time.

FRIESLAND.

FRIESLAND.

EXTRACT from the Register - Book of the
Lords the States of Friesland.

THE Requisition of Mr. Adams, for presenting his Letters of Credence from the United States of America to their High-Mightinesses, having been brought into the Assembly, and put into deliberation, as also the ulterior Address to the same Purpose, with a demand of a categorical answer, made by him, as is more amply mentioned in the minutes of their High-Mightinesses of the 4th. of May 1781, and the 9th. of January 1782; whereupon it having been taken into Consideration, that the said Mr. Adams would probably have some Propositions to make to their High-Mightinesses, and to present to them the principal Articles and Foundations upon which the Congress, on their part, would enter into a Treaty of Commerce and Friendship, or other affairs to propose, in regard to which dispatch would be requisite.

It has been thought fit and resolved, to authorize the Lords the Deputies of this Province at the Generality, and to instruct them, to direct things, at the Table of their High - Mightinesses, in such a manner, that the said Mr. Adams be admitted forthwith as Minister of the Congress of North-America; with further order to the said Deputies, that if there should be made moreover any similar Propositions by the same, to
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inform immediately their noble Mightinesses of them. And an Extract of the present Resolution shall be sent them for their Information, that they may conduct themselves conformably.

Thus resolved at the Province-House the 26 February 1782.

Compared with the aforesaid Book to my knowledge.

Signed

A. J. V. SMINIA.

H O L L A N D A N D W E S T F R I E S L A N D .

EXTRACT of the Resolutions of the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland, taken in the Assembly of their Noble and Grand-Mightinesses, Thursday 28 March 1782.]

DELIBERATED by Resumption upon the Address and the ulterior Address of Mr. Adams, made the 4th. of May 1781, and the 9th of January 1782, to the President of the States General, communicated to the Assembly the 9 May 1781, and the 22d. of last Month, to present his Letters of Credence, in the name of the United States of America, to their High-Mightinesses; by which ulterior Address, the said Mr. Adams hath demanded a categorical answer, that he may acquaint his Constituents thereof: deliberated also upon the Petitions of a great number of Merchants, Manufacturers and other Inhabitants of this Province, interested in Commerce to support their Request presented to the States General, the twentyeth current, to the end, that efficacious Measures might be taken to establish a Commerce between this Country and North-America, Copy of which Petitions have been given to the Members the twenty first; it hath been thought fit

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and resolved, that the affair shall be directed on the part of their noble and grand Mightinesses, at the Assembly of the States General, and that shall be there made, the strongest Instances, that Mr. Adams be admitted and acknowledged, as soon as possible, by their High-Mightinesses, in quality of Ambassador of the United States of America. And the Councillor Pensionary hath been charged to inform under hand the said Mr. Adams of this Resolution of their noble and grand Mightinesses.

The said Mr. Adams hath been informed of the said Resolution, and hath given answer, that he will be ready to depart for Amsterdam, as soon as he shall receive the necessary orders from the United States of America.

At the same time, the Councillor Pensionary hath been charged to inform the said Mr. Adams, that the States General have resolved, that the said Mr. Adams shall be received as Ambassador of the United States of America, and that he shall be admitted to the same, as soon as he shall receive the necessary orders from the United States of America. And the Councillor Pensionary hath been charged to inform the said Mr. Adams, that the States General have resolved, that the said Mr. Adams shall be received as Ambassador of the United States of America, and that he shall be admitted to the same, as soon as he shall receive the necessary orders from the United States of America.

ZEALAND.

Z E A L A N D.

EXTRACT of the Resolutions of their High-Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces. Monday 8 April 1782.

THE Deputies of the Province of Zealand have brought to the Assembly, and have caused to be read there, the Resolution of the States of the said Province, their Principals, to cause to be admitted, as soon as possible, Mr. Adams in quality of Ambassador of the Congress of North-America, according to the following Resolution.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Resolutions of the Lords the States of Zealand, 4th. of April 1782.

It hath been thought fit and ordered, that the Lords, the ordinary Deputies of this Province at the Generality, shall be authorised, as it is done by the present, to assist, in the direction of affairs at the Assembly of their High Mightinesses, in such a manner, that Mr. Adams may be acknowledged, as soon as possible, as Ambassador of the Congress of North-America; that his Letters of Credence be accepted; and that he be admitted in that quality, according to the ordinary form; enjoining farther upon the said Lords the ordinary Deputies, to take such Propositions, as should be made to this Republick by the said Mr. Adams, for

the Information and Deliberation of their High-Mightinesses, to the end to transmit them here as soon as possible. And an Extract of this Resolution of their noble Mightinesses shall be sent to the Lords their ordinary Deputies, to serve them as an Instruction.

Signed

J. M. CHALMERS.

Upon which having deliberated, it hath been thought fit and resolved, to pray by the present the Lords the Deputies of the Province of Guelderland, Utrecht, and Groningen and Ommelanden, who have not yet explained themselves upon this subject, to be pleased to do it as soon as possible.

OVERYSSELL.

O V E R Y S S E L.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Resolutions of the Equestrian Order, and of the Cities composing the States of Overysfel. Zwoll 5 April 1782.

MR. the grand Bailiff of Saalland, and the other Commissioners of their noble Mightinesses for the Affairs of Finance, having examined, conformably to their Commissorial Resolution of the third of this month, the Addresses of Mr. Adams, communicated to the Assembly the 4th. of May 1781, and the 22 of February 1782, to present his Letters of Credence to their High-Mightinesses, in the name of the United States of America; as well as the Resolution of the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland dated the 28th. of March 1782, carried the 29th. of the same Month to the Assembly of their High-Mightinesses, for the admission and acknowledgment of Mr. Adams, have reported to the Assembly, that they should be of opinion, that the Lords the Deputies of this Province in the States General ought to be authoris'd and charged, to declare in the Assembly of their High-Mightinesses, that the Equestrian order and the Cities judge, that it is proper to acknowledge, as soon as possible, Mr. Adams in quality of Minister of the United States of North-America to their High-Mightinesses. Upon which having deliberated, the Equestrian Order and the Cities have conformed themselves to the said Report.

TO BE Compared with the afore said Register.

Signed

DERK DUNBAR.

GRONINGEN.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Resolutions of their noble Mightinesses, the States of Groningen and Ommelanden. Tuesday 9 April 1782.

THE Lords the States of Groningen and Ommelanden, having heard the Report of the Lords the Commissioners for the Petitions of the Council of State and the Finances of the Province, and having carefully examined the demand of Mr. Adams, to present his Letters of Credence from the United States of America to their High-Mightinesses, have, after deliberation upon the subject, declared themselves of opinion, that in the critical circumstances in which the Republick finds itself at present, it is proper to take, without loss of Time, such efficacious measures, as may not only repair the Losses and Damages, that the Kingdom of Great-Britain hath caused in a manner so unjust, and against every shadow of Right, to the Commerce of the Republick, as well before as after the war, but particularly such as may establish the free Navigation and the Commerce of the Republick, for the future, upon the most solid Foundations, as may confirm and reassure it, by the strongest Bonds of reciprocal Interest; and that, in consequence, the Lords the Deputies at the Assembly of their High-Mightinesses ought to be authorised, on the part of the Province, as they are by the present, to admit Mr. Adams to present his Letters of Credence,

ce from the United States of America, and to receive the Propositions which he shall make, to make Report of them to the Lords te States of this Province.

Signed

E. LEWE, Secretary.

The States General, having deliberated the same day upon the Resolution, have resolved, that the Deputies of this Province of Guelderland, which has not yet declared itself upon the same subject, should be requested, to be pleased to do it as soon as possible.

UTRECHT.

EXTRACT of the Resolutions of their noble Mightinesses, the States of the Province of Utrecht.
10 April 1782.

H EARD the Report of Mr. DeWesterveld and other Deputies of their noble Mightinesses for the department of war, who, in virtue of the commissorial Resolutions of the 9 May 1781, 16 January and 20 March of the present year 1782, have examined the Resolutions of their High-Mightinesses of the 4 May 1781, containing an overture, that Mr. the President of the Assembly of their High-Mightinesses had made, that a Person styling himself J. Adams had been with him, and had given him to understand, that he had received Letters of Credence for their High-Mightinesses from the United States of America, with a request, that he would be pleased to communicate them to their High-Mightinesses; as well as the Resolution of their High-Mightinesses of the 9 January, containing an ulterior overture of Mr. the President, that the said Mr. Adams had been with him, and had insisted upon a categorical answer, whether his said Letters of Credence would be accepted or not; finally the Resolution of their High-Mightinesses of the 5 of March last, with the Insertion of the Resolution of Friesland, containing a proposition to admit Mr. Adams in quality of Minister of the Congress of North-America".

Upon

Upon which having deliberated, and remarked, that the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland, by their Resolution carried the 29 of March to the States General, have also consented to the admission of the said Mr. Adams in quality of Minister of the Congress of North-America; it hath been thought fit and resolved, that the Lords the Deputies of this Province in the States General should be authorised, as their noble Mightinesses authorise them by the present, to conform themselves, in the name of this Province, to the Resolution of the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland, and of Friesland, and to consent by consequence, that Mr. Adams be acknowledged and admitted as Minister of the United States of America; their noble Mightinesses being at the mean time of opinion, that it would be necessary to acquaint her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and the other Neutral Powers, with the Resolution to be taken by their High-Mightinesses upon this subject, in communicating to them, as much as shall be necessary, the Reasons, which have induced their High-Mightinesses to it, and giving them the strongest assurances, that the Intention of their High-Mightinesses is by no means to prolong thereby the war, which they would have willingly prevented and terminated long since; but on the contrary, that their High-Mightinesses wish nothing with more ardor, than a prompt Reestablishment of Peace; and that they shall be always ready on their part, to co-operate in it in all possible ways, and with a suitable Readiness, so far as that shall be any way compatible with their Honour and their Dignity, and for this end an Extract of this shall be carried by Messive to the Lords the Deputies at the Generality.

GUELDERLAND.

*EXTRACT from the Recès of the ordinary Diet,
held in the City of Nimeguen, in the Month of
April 1782. Wednesday, 17 April 1782.*

THE Requisition of Mr. Adams, to present his Letters of Credence to their High-Mightinesses in the name of the United States of America, having been brought to the Assembly and read, as well as an ultériour Address made upon this subject, with a demand of a categorical answer by the said Mr. Adams, more amply mentioned in the Registers of their High-Mightinesses of the date of the 4th. of May 1781, and of the 9 January 1782; moreover the Resolutions of the Lords the States of the five other Provinces, carried successively to the Assembly of their High-Mightinesses, and all tending to admit Mr. Adams in quality of Ambassador of the United States of America to this Republick; upon which their noble-Mightinesses, after Deliberation, halve resolved to authorize the Deputies of this Province at the States General, as they authorize them by the present, to conform themselves in the name of this Province to the Resolution of the Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland, and to consent by consequence, that Mr. Adams may be acknowledged and admitted in quality of Ambassador of the United States of America to this Republick. In consequence, an Extract of the
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present shall be sent to the said Deputies, to make
as soon as possible the requisite overture of it to
the Assembly of their High Mightinesses.

In fidem Extracti.

Signed

J. IN DE BETOUW.

THE

THE STATES GENERAL

*EXTRACT from the Register of the Resolutions
of their High-Mightinesses the States General
of the United Provinces. Fryday 19 April 1782.*

DELIBERATED by Resumption, upon the Address and the ulterious Address, made by Mr. Adams the 4 May 1781, and the 9 January of the curreant year to Mr. the President of the Assembly of their High-Mightinesses, to present to their High-Mightinesses his Letters of Credence in the name of the United States of North-America; and by which ulterious Address the said Mr. Adams hath demanded a categorical answer, to the end to be able to acquaint his Constituents thereof; it hath been thought fit and resolved, that Mr. Adams shall be admitted and acknowledged in quality of Ambassador of the United States of North-America to their High-Mightinesses, as he is admitted and acknowledged by the present.

Signed

W. BOREEL, *Presidt.*

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Compared with the aforesaid Register.

Signed

H. FAGEL.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from the Register of the Resolutions
of their High-Mightinesses the States General
of the United Provinces, Monday 22 April 1782.

MR. BOREEL, who presided in the Assembly the last week, hath reported to their High-Mightinesses, and notified them, that Mr John Adams, Ambassador of the United States of America, had been with him last Saturday, and presented to him a Letter from the Assembly of Congress, written at Philadelphia the first of January 1781, containing a Credence: for the said Mr. Adams, to the end to reside in quality of its Minister Plenipotentiary near their High-Mightinesses: Upon which having deliberated, it hath been thought fit and resolved, to declare by the present: „ That the said Mr. Adams is agreeable „ to their High-Mightinesses; that he shall be „ acknowledged in quality of Minister Plenipo- „ tentiary; and that there shall be granted to him „ an Audience, or assigned Commissioners, when „ he shall demand it”. Information of the above shall be given to the said Mr. Adams, by the Agent van der Burch de Spieringshoek.

Signed

W. VAN CITTERS;; *Presidt.*

Lower down

Compared with the aforesaid Register.

Signed

H. FAGEL.

MEDAL.

M E D A L.

TO THE NOBLE AND MIGHTY LORDS, (THE
STATES OF FRIESLAND.)

THE Society of Citizens, established at Leeuwarden, under the Motto: „By Liberty and „Zeal”, most humbly represents, that it desires to have an opportunity of testifying publicly, by Facts, to your noble Mightinesses the most lively, but, at the sametime, the most respectfull sentiments of gratitude, which not only animate them, but also, as they assure themselves, all the well intentioned Citizens, especially, with relation to the Resolutions equally important, and full of wisdom, which your noble Mightinesses have taken upon all the Points, in regard to which the critical Circumstances, in which the dear Country finds itself plunged, have furnished to your noble Mightinesses objects equally numerous and disagreeable, particularly, at the ordinary Diet of the year 1782, and at the extraordinary Diet held in the Month of April last: Resolutions which bear not only the characters of wisdom, but also those of the best intentioned sollicitude, and the purest Love of our Country; and which prove in the most convincing manner, that your noble Mightinesses have no greater ambition, than its universal Prosperity; assiduously proposing to yourselves, as the most important object of your attention, of your entreprises, and of your attachment, the Rule: *Salus Populi suprema lex esto*: Resolutions, in fine, which ought perfectly to re-assure

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the good Citizens of this Province, and encourage them to persevere in that full and tranquil Confidence, which has hindered them from representing to your noble Mightinesses the true Interests of the Country, and to exhort them, at the same time, by their supplications, to act with courage, and to fulfill their Duties, considering that the said Resolutions have fully assured them, that their Possessions, with that which is above all things dear to them, their Liberty (that Right which is more precious to them than their Lives; to which the smallest Injury cannot be done, without doing wrong and dishonour to Humanity; a Right, nevertheless, which, if we consider the world in general, has been, alas, almost every where equally violated) are deposited in safety, under the vigilant eye of your noble Mightinesses.

The Society has thought, that it might accomplish its wishes, in the most convenient and decent manner, in causing to be struck, at its expence, a Medal of Silver, which may remain to Posterity a durable Monument of the perfect Harmony which at the present dangerous epocha has reigned between the Government and the People. It has conceived, for this purpose, a Sketch or Project, as yet incompleat, according to which one of the sides of the Medal should bear the Arms of Friesland, held by an hand, which descends from the Clouds, with an Inscription in the following Terms: *To the States of Friesland, in gratefull Memory of the Diets of February and of April 1782, dedicated by the Society* LIBERTY AND ZEAL. An Inscription, which would thus contain a general applause of all the Resolutions taken in these two Diets; whilst upon the Reverse, one should distinguish, more particularly, the two Events,
which

which interest the most our common Country, in regard of which your noble Mightinesses have given the Exemple to the States of the other Provinces, and which merit for this reason, as placed in the foremost situation, to shew itself the most clearly to the sight: to wit,, The Admission of Mr. Adams in quality of Minister of the United States of America to this Republi^c; and the Refusal of a separate Peace with Great-Britain". Events which should be represented symbolically by a Frisian, dressed according to the ancient characteristick Custom of the Frisians, holding out his right hand to an Inhabitant of North-America, in token of Friendship and Brotherly Love; whilst with the left hand he rejects the Peace, which England offers him. The whole with such convenient additions, and symbolical ornaments, which the Society, perhaps, would do well to leave to the Invention of the Medallist, &c.

[The remainder of this Request relates to other Subjects.]

Done at Leeuwarden the 8 May 1782.

The Society,, BY LIBERTY AND ZEAL".

Signed at its Request

W. WOPKENS,

in the absence of the Secretary.

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JAN 3 1 1884

